Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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16
DAYS TO GO BEFORE
ELECTION DAY

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Are you concerned about the financial crisis affecting the United States?

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to cast your vote.

19 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Fresh Homes

A dozen designers are asked to share some inside information that would help us freshen up our homes easily.

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Richest Pinoy

Henry Sy, the Philippines' biggest mall operator, is the wealthiest Filipino this year, Forbes Asia magazine said.

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FIRST SESSION OF 11TH YOUTH CONGRESS

Leon Guerrero is elected Speaker

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Members of the 11th Youth Congress join top government officials led by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios after the organizational session yesterday on Capital Hill.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Alana May Leon Guerrero had been chosen as Speaker of the 11th CNMI Youth Congress during the organizational session held yesterday. The 23 youth senators were officially inducted into office before top government officials, their parents, family members, friends, and other visitors at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill.

Chief Justice Miguel Demapan administered the oath of office for the new youth leaders.

Amid a heavy downpour outside the Jesus P. Mafnas Building, the young leaders took over the session hall for over an hour and flawlessly delivered their part, based on the script for the special occasion.

Leon Guerrero, the lone in-

See 23 YOUTH on Page 4

Labor completes case backlog project

The Department of Labor announced Thursday that it has completed a 24-month project to clean up all pending labor cases and agency cases from the years 1997 through 2007.

"We completed the adjudication and closure of 4,968 cases," Deputy Secretary Jacinta M. Kaipat said. "We started this project in October 2006 and we finished at the end of September 2008, just as we said we would."

The project covered labor cases in which individuals bring complaints to the Labor Department, usually about unpaid wages or overtime, and also agency cases in which the de-

See AFTER on Page 4

Lawyer Deanne Siemer, center, gestures during a forum on the new labor law at Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe in this August file photo. Also in picture are Labor Director Barry Hirshbein, right and Labor Deputy Secretary Jacinta Kaipat.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

KYODO PHOTO

Mark Geragos, left, and Bruce Berline, lawyers for Kazuyoshi Miura, who committed suicide last weekend in a Los Angeles jail, face reporters Thursday in L.A.

Lawyer has 'proof' Miura not a suicide

LOS ANGELES (The Japan Times)—California lawyer Mark Geragos said Thursday he has proof that his client, Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura, did not commit suicide in a Los Angeles police cell last weekend, as authorities have claimed.

Miura apparently hanged himself after arriving from Saipan to face trial over the fatal 1981 shooting of his then wife.

However, Geragos told reporters that an independent investigation into the case, expected to be completed as early as next week, has led to multiple proof contradicting the Los Angeles Police Department's announcement last week that Miura hanged himself in his cell.

Geragos did not say what kind of proof he had.

He repeatedly emphasized the importance of finding out what really happened to his 61-year-old client, saying the LAPD announcement and related media reports of Miura committing suicide are inaccurate.

Bruce Berline, Miura's lawyer on Saipan who spoke with him the day before he was flown to Los Angeles on Oct. 10, said at the same news conference that he did not notice anything

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Island Snapshots

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Peggy Pixley, who is celebrating her 9th birthday today, Oct. 19. Greetings come from Ninang Susan and parents, Mr. & Mrs. Steven Pixley, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Christening to Baby Breseis Ann! She is shown here with her proud parents, Analyn and Junar, during the celebration held at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

CHRISTENING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Welcome to the Christian world, baby Kyle, shown here with her Mommy Karen, Kuya Isiah and Kuya Matthew during the celebration held at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated happy birthday greetings go out Charlie Tapnio who celebrated his birthday last Oct. 15. Greeting from your Elite Printing family.

BIRTHDAY BOY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maverick, who turned 7 in August, celebrated his birthday at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

NEWLYWEDS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Mark and Lily Bagang, who tied the knot in September. The reception was held at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe. The new couple is shown here with friends and family.

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Around the CNMI

Fitial urges leaders to set aside political differences

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has urged government leaders to set aside their political differences and work together for the common good of the CNMI during a speech at the first session of the 11th Youth Congress yesterday.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes and Speaker Arnold I. Palacios also delivered messages before Chief Justice Miguel Demapan administered the swearing in ceremony for the 23 elected youth senators at the Jesus P. Mafnas Building on Capital Hill.

"Young people should understand how their government works and how democracy works," said Fitial to the youth leaders.

He said they would soon gain a greater appreciation of the legislative process and policy-making, and better understand the government.

However, he also underscored the danger of relying too much on the government to solve problems. He urged them not to neglect the private sector, which makes the government possible because they are the ones paying taxes.

"The private sector hires and pays employees, who pay taxes to the government," Fitial said.

Too often, "we allow politics to trump economics and this leads to disastrous policies that harm our islands," he added.

Fitial told the youth leaders, members of the Legislative Branch, parents and visitors to consider the Retirement Fund, with its huge unfunded liability.

He said the problem was created when economies and finance were ignored to provide unfunded and unsound benefits for political purposes. These benefits, he said, exceeded the Fund's ability to pay.

"We must be wary of this tendency of government to make unsound political decisions for political benefits, regardless of the actual costs or economics involved,' Fitial said.

He said the lack of cooperation between the Legislative and Executive branches has devastating effects over sound economics.

Fitial said the CNMI today is still in crisis.

He recalled that external events that adversely affected the CNMI were "often beyond our control."

"Globalization and the effects of free trade, for example, have taken their toll on our once formidable manufacturing industry," Fitial said.

He added that oil prices, though recently receding, have also taken their toll on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the economy.

"Federalization presents another great challenge," Fitial said.

He said that it is more important than ever for the two braches to work together for common cause of the people of CNMI.

"The challenges we face are not easy challenges to address but we stand a grater chance at success if all sectors of the community, including the Legislature, Executive Branch and the business community, join together to resolve our pressing issues," Fitial noted.

Senate President Reyes and House Speaker Palacios spent time inspiring the young leaders to excel while doing their duties.

Reyes told them to take this opportunity to develop their leadership skills.

"In the coming years the CNMI will need those who are able to lead, inspire and bring fresh new ideas to the table. This is your chance to hone those skills needed to be an effective leader," Reyes said.

Palacios said the Youth Congress provides an excellent opportunity for young leaders to immerse themselves and think about the problems and issues facing the CNMI, discuss those problems and take a position on an issue and debate on its merits.

Using tourism to help the environment

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

APIA, Samoa—Tourists could be one answer to the Pacific region's solution to carbon emissions, the President of Counterpart International, a non-profit international development organization working in more than 60 countries, said Friday.

At the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable Friday, Lelei LeLaulu said that one thing each island nation in the Pacific has an abundance of is tourists, and if each nation asked those tourists to calculate the cash value of their carbon emissions for the trip, the nations could use that money to combat the growing amount of emissions. The tourists would pay upon their arrival and they money would then be used to plant trees or mangroves, ultimately reducing emissions.

"It's literally money from the air," he said.

It would also bring the tourists back in the future, he said.

"You think they might want to come back and see those trees and mangroves?," he asked the delegates at the Roundtable, which brought together representatives from Pacific islands and territories and other organizations to discuss climate change ahead of the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, where the goal is to enter into a binding global climate agreement starting in 2012.

Although the Pacific Island Nations only account for 0.03 percent of the world's carbon emissions, it's important the region shows they are serious about reduction, said Espen Ronneberg, Climate Change Adviser for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. SPREP is a regional organization based in Apia that is charged with protecting and managing the region's environment and natural resources.

Plus, LeLaulu said, studies have shown tourists are more likely to travel to places that are environmentally or carbon conscious.

A similar scheme has worked in a Mayan village, he added. Right when tourists get off the plane they are greeted with a nursery where they buy a tree. A Priest blesses the visitor and the tree before before leading the tourists to the planting site.

Most people think of businessmen in suits and ties in New York or Frankfurt, Germany, making money off of carbon emissions, LeLaulu said, but this is one way locations in the Pacific can profit off the issue.

In fact, he added, someone should have calculated the emissions used for the more than 100 delegates who traveled to the Roundtable and used that money to plant trees in Apia.

"We have to put our emissions where our mouths are," he said.

The idea came as delegates were brainstorming publicity ideas and activities for 2009's Pacific Year of Climate Change, which aims to showcase the region's dedication to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

"This could perhaps assist in trying to get an agreement in 2009 in Copenhagen that will please the Pacific," Ronneberg said.

One delegate in attendance said a long-term goal could be to get a well-known author to write about climate change and hopefully make the issue more mainstream.

LeLaulu said screenwriters are another group that could be tapped to help, especially if they are interested in shooting movies in the Pacific region.

"That way we can get Brad [Pitt] and Angelina [Jolie] for free," he said.

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Defendant appears in court after 5 yrs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court ordered the forfeiture Thursday of a cash bail that had been posted by a defendant who failed to appear at a hearing in 2003 and returned to court after five years.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona said Jun Li Wei's five-year absence from the CNMI does not indicate any likelihood that the defendant will appear in this case and seek relief from the court.

Accordingly, Manglona said, a separate default judgment of bail forfeiture will be issued on the $150 cash bail Wei posted in 2002 for failing to appear in court in March and April 2003.

According to court records, on Sept. 8, 2002, Wei allegedly committed the crimes of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. The next day, Wei appeared in court for a bail hearing. The bail was set at 10 percent of the sum of $1,500, or $150 cash with certain terms and conditions of release.

One of the terms is for Wei to return to court whenever required to do so. He posted the $150 cash bail and was released.

The following month, Wei requested that his passport be released and that he be allowed to return to China to take care of his ailing father.

The court required the defendant to post an additional $2,000 cash and submit additional documentation, including a signed waiver of extradition.

The court then entered an order allowing the release of Wei's passport upon the submission of certain items, including documentation of a roundtrip ticket.

At the Feb. 13, 2003, hearing, Wei personally appeared with counsel, having returned from China. The status conference was continued to March 31, 2003.

The parties stipulated to authorize the release of the $2,000 additional cash bond with the representation that Wei had returned his passport to the clerk of court.

On March 5, 2003, the court ordered the $2,000 cash bond returned to Wei

At the March 31, 2003 hearing, Wei appeared through counsel but failed to appear personally so the matter was continued to April 7, 2003.

At the April 7, 2003 hearing, Wei again failed to appear personally. A bench warrant was issued for his arrest with bail set at $2,000 cash.

Five years later, the originally assigned judge, Juan T. Lizama, retired. The case was assigned to Judge Manglona.

Manglona set the matter for a status conference and ordered all parties to appear on June 25, 2008.

At the June 25, 2008 hearing, Wei again appeared only through counsel. Manglona announced that she would declare a forfeiture of the $150 bail posted in 2002 for the defendant's failure to appear in court.

Wei's counsel, the Public Defender's Office, objected. The Attorney General's Office failed to file any written statement.

Manglona issued an order to show cause and set the matter for a hearing on Oct. 7, 2008.

One of the issues raised by Wei is that the court cannot declare a forfeiture because there has been no motion made by any party.

In her written order, Manglona pointed to a provision in the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedures that mandates the declaration of forfeiture without the prerequisite of a motion.

Manglona said in this case the government did orally move the court at the Oct. 7, 2008, hearing to enter the judgment of default.

The judge said that, without an objection by the defense, she granted the government's motion.

MONUMENT SUPPORTERS STEFAN SEBASTIAN

Students from Hopwood Junior High on Friday deliver a packet of comments on the proposed national marine monument to staff at the American Memorial Park. The comments are now bound for the White House.

23 youth senators take their oath of office

From Page 1

cumbent representing Precinct 3 for the past three years, immediately presided the organizational meeting after her election by acclamation.

Two others, Adeleyah Charlotte Mojica and John Atalig Ayuyu, were elected by acclamation as Vice Speaker and Floor Leader, respectively.

Ayuyu, who was the Floor Leader Pro Tempore before the election of the presiding officers, nominated both Leon Guerrero and Mojica to their posts.

Leon Guerrero vowed to work with her colleagues for the betterment of the youth in the CNMI. She said the special occasion is just the beginning of a new chapter for the youth in the CNMI.

"We must not stay away from being the eyes, ears, and mouth of the youth," she said as she and the other Youth Congress members gave thanks to those who supported them during the campaign period. They also thanked government officials for giving them this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to serve the community in their own way.

Leon Guerrero also gave a special shout-out to her nephews for pushing her, kidding: "I made it."

Mojica, who represents Precinct 2, borrowed the words of Gen. George Patton to articulate the current financial crisis that the CNMI, the United States and the whole world is experiencing. "Success is how high you bounce once you hit bottom," Mojica said.

She said the CNMI is close to hitting the bottom, but with the youth's own way of helping the country get back to its feet, CNMI can surely bounce back and be successful.

Ayuyu, who represents Precinct 6, urged his colleagues to make the 11th Youth Congress be the best. His vision is to provide more opportunities that would motivate the youth to become better citizens.

Maria Grace Madeline B. Alvarez, who represents Saipan Southern High School, was also elected by acclamation as Legislative Secretary.

The other elected youth senators are Charlyn S. Techur (Northern Marianas College), Andrew Camacho Benavente (Precinct 1), Binaca Kabua Blanco (Precinct 1), Annie Cotero Camacho (Saipan International School), Leilani Sablan Cepeda (Marianas High School), Donnie Rodriguez Dosalua (Tinian Sr. High School), Min Kyung Kim (Mount Carmel School), Kimberly Babauta Hofschneider (Grace Christian Academy), Seong Bin Lee (Marianas Baptist Academy), You Mi Lee (Precinct 3), Quina Marie Palacios Mendiola (Precinct 5), Jessel Manglona Mesa (Kagman High School), Maegan Taitano Norita (Precinct 4), Johora Atalig Paeda (Rota Sr. High School), Min Seon Park (NMC), Thomas Rios Rabauliman (Precinct 3), Aesha De-Brum Sablan (NMC), Jessamin C. Sablan (Precinct 1) and Sunny Frank Lifoifoi Aldan (Northern Marianas Academy).

Leon Guerrero immediately appointed chairs and vice chairs of the different committees. They were Blanco and Mi Lee for Ways and Means; Hofschneider and Dosalua for Natural Resources; Norita and Paeda for Health and Welfare; Benavente and Aldan for Education; Kim and Bin Lee for Judiciary and Governmental Operations; Techur and Park for Arts and Humanities; Manglona and Camacho for Commerce and Tourism; Cepeda and Palacios for Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication; and Santos and Rabauliman for Youth, Sports and Recreation.

After two years, Labor finally closes 4,968 cases

From Page 1

partment itself brings a case against an employer, usually about companywide practices.

Because the department has very limited manpower and was swamped with cases, it could not make much progress with the backlog in 2006.

"We recruited Deanne Siemer to help us in October 2006. She is a very experienced trial lawyer and has served as a judge and mediator in many complex cases in the United States. We asked her whether we could conceivably clean up all the cases that had built up over the years," Kaipat said. "Deanne told us this could be done with a crew of experienced, trained, temporary paralegals, so we authorized her to recruit those people to help. Ultimately, she recruited four people, all of whom are locals," Kaipat said.

"Deanne contributed her time without any pay or per diem of any kind, and we paid the paralegals at the U.S. minimum wage or more, depending on their level of experience. Each of the paralegals had their own business, so they worked on a temporary basis as independent contractors," Kaipat explained. "We are very grateful to Sarah Blalock, Josephine Kapileo, Khris Dela Paz, and Tara Aldan who were tremendously efficient."

The department reported to the Secretary of Finance that it spent $7.25 per case for the entire handling from start to finish of each of the 4,968 cases by the paralegal team. It also spent $1.90 per case for advertising the notices of hearing, the issuance of orders, and the closure of cases so that each party would have adequate published notice of the status of each case.

"We spent a total of $36,012 on the temporary paralegal services for all these cases, and we spent a total of $9,450 for advertising and supplies," Kaipat reported. "This was a very cost-effective project. We finished the job on time and within budget."

"In order to complete this project on time, Deanne advanced her own funds to pay the paralegals on a current basis, so they would not have to wait for the Commonwealth's procurement process to grind to a conclusion on their invoices," Kaipat said. "They are small businesses, and they need to be paid promptly. Deanne then invoiced the government for the amounts she had advanced."

The department reported that the Commonwealth has now paid Siemer's invoices for the amounts she advanced to the paralegals and for advertising, so the project is completed.

The department has nine remaining cases from the year 2007 to be heard.

"These are mostly cases where hearings had to be rescheduled because of lawyers' conflicts with other hearings or obligations. They are all on the Hearing Office calendar to be completed by the end of November," Kaipat said.

The department also has six opinions remaining to be issued from cases filed in 2007 and prior years that have already been heard.

"We expect to have all these opinions issued by the end of October," Kaipat said. "We are almost completely current, dealing now with mostly 2008 cases. The processing of the 2008 cases is going very well." ***(Department of Labor)***

Geragos says he has proof Miura did not kill self

From Page 1

unusual and the explanation that Miura committed suicide does not make sense to him.

Before the press event, Geragos and Miura's widow met with officials of the Los Angeles County medical examiner's office.

The office had earlier said it would announce the cause of death as early as Thursday. But it has postponed the announcement to within two weeks, saying it is awaiting the completion of all tests, including histopathologic and toxicological examinations.

An official of the office said there has been no indication showing Miura's death was not a suicide. The office conducted a postmortem last Sunday.

Miura had been held on a murder conspiracy charge over the killing of his then wife, Kazumi, who was shot in November 1981 while traveling with him in Los Angeles. She fell into a coma and died about a year later in Japan from her injuries.

In 1994, Miura was convicted of the crime and sentenced to life in prison by the Tokyo District Court, which said the actual shooter was an unidentified third party. But in 1998, the Tokyo High Court overturned the ruling and in 2003 the Supreme Court upheld the high court's decision.

Miura was arrested on Saipan in February in connection with the slaying. The warrant alleged he gestured to someone to shoot his wife in the head.

SSG Manglona is remembered in Hawaii

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The Rear Detachment for the 100th Batallion/442nd Infantry, together with the Veterans of the 100th/442nd, conducted a solemn memorial ceremony for Staff Sgt. Julian Manglona of Echo Company, 100th/442nd in Honolulu, Hawaii on the evening of Oct. 15, 2008, at the 100th Battalion Veterans' Lounge/Clubhouse.

Shortly before the 7pm start time, soldiers and veterans clad in Class A uniforms, ACUs and civilian clothes began filing into the Clubhouse as the bagpiper started playing the military taps. Also in attendance were friends, family, and supporters who came to share in the loss of a soldier, a husband, a father and a brother.

Capt. John Colburn, the Rear Detachment commander, delivered touching remarks and reminisced on his memories of the dedicated soldier he came to know in Manglona's first deployment in 2004. Colburn said that Manglona "served with distinction and valor by always placing the mission first, never accepting defeat, and never leaving a fallen comrade."

Manglona

Following the remarks and the scripture reading, soldiers and veterans of the 100th/442nd gathered around the memorial display of the rifle, helmet, and boots along with Manglona's photograph. As each soldier placed their hands on the memorial, they began to sing the battalion's "Go For Broke" song in a final farewell to their departed brother in arms.

After the dedication song, it was time to conduct what's known as the "Last Roll Call." As the names of several soldiers were called, each one rose from their seat to declare their presence. Then Manglona's name was called. The room was silent and several were seen close to tears. With a louder voice, a soldier called out, "Staff Sgt. Julian Manglona?"

With no response, the soldier called out in an even louder voice, "Staff Sgt. Julian Francis Manglona?"

This time, with no response, the Honor Guard raised their firearms and performed the 21-gun salute in honor of their comrade and brother. This was followed by the playing of taps. Soon after, the soldiers and veterans marched to the memorial display to render their final salute. When they were done, the rest of the community was given an opportunity to pay their respects at the memorial.

At this time, representatives of Manglona's homeland in the Northern Marianas Islands gathered in front of the memorial to offer a prayer in their own Chamorro language. In attendance were Marianas Hawaii Medical Referral coordinator Angel A. Demapan (also of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th BSTB), Medical Referral staffer Margaret S. McQuay, Capt. Clarence Tenorio and Sgt. Joellene Abadam of the 1101st GSU Det 24, CNMI residents Susana Mafnas and Blas Mafnas. ***(PR)***

Two MHS alumni are named AP Scholars

Marianas High School's Kristina Bermudes and Rachel Reyes earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program® exams. These two exceptional students qualified for the AP Scholar awards by earning grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

Bermudes

Reyes

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performances on the AP exams. About 18 percent of the 1.6 million students worldwide who took AP exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

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The College Board is a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,400 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT®, the PSAT/NMSQT®, and the Advanced Placement Program®. The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns. ***(PR)***

Get a head start on a career in pharmacy

Members from a program in College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo will be on Saipan Oct. 27-28 to present information on how students in the Pacific region can get a head start in preparing for a career in pharmacy.

The representative from UH-Hilo's Pacific Pre-Pharmacy Program are talking with leaders of colleges in the U.S. American Affiliated Pacific Islands who are on Saipan for a meeting of the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council. In addition, UH-Hilo program director Susan Jarvi and advising assistant and project coordinator Elizabeth Ryan will meet with healthcare professionals and students to explain the curriculum and solicit ideas.

"The program is designed to help students in the Pacific region who plan to apply to the College of Pharmacy," Jarvi said. "Through mentorship, guidance and tutorial programs, we can provide a truly tailor-made educational experience."

The visit to Saipan is the culmination of tour of the Western Pacific, including Guam and Palau, where Jarvi and Ryan met with students, parents and administrators. Jarvi is developing the pre-pharmacy program along with co-investigator Anthony Wright, chair of pharmaceutical sciences, who met with pharmacist and students in Guam prior to her visit here. The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

"This grant allows us to expand our existing pre-pharmacy program to meet the needs of rural areas of the Pacific that might not have access to formal training opportunities," said Pharmacy Dean John Pezzuto. "These students are integral to the continued success of the College of Pharmacy as we will be building a base from which to recruit top-notch future doctoral students."

The existing pre-pharmacy program of UH-Hilo is a two-year program that provides individual guidance, mentoring and advising to Hawaii's students, on campus or through distance learning. The new program broadens accessibility by funding Pacific Rim students to be trained through a combination of online and on-campus courses through UH-Hilo.

The new program extends and expands a distance learning program for pharmacy technicians begun four years ago by then program director Jerry Johnson in partnership with the University of Alaska. Johnson, who is the former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will continue to work on the project. He said the program gives people in this region a level of training they never had an opportunity to get before.

Jarvi said the team plans to begin reviewing potential candidates by the first of the year with the hope that students will be entering the system by next summer. Students will take courses in basic sciences, including biology, chemistry, and human anatomy as well as general education courses.

The College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo seated its inaugural class in fall 2007 with 90 students and 18 faculty and staff. The college now has 178 students and 38 faculty and staff. Over the next two or three years, plans call for the addition of 80-90 students per year for a total of four classes and reaching a total staff of 75.

For contact information during their visit to Saipan, call 323-5000, PHI Pharmacy. For more information about the College of Pharmacy, call (808) 933-2909 or email pharmacy@hawaii.edu. ***(PR)***

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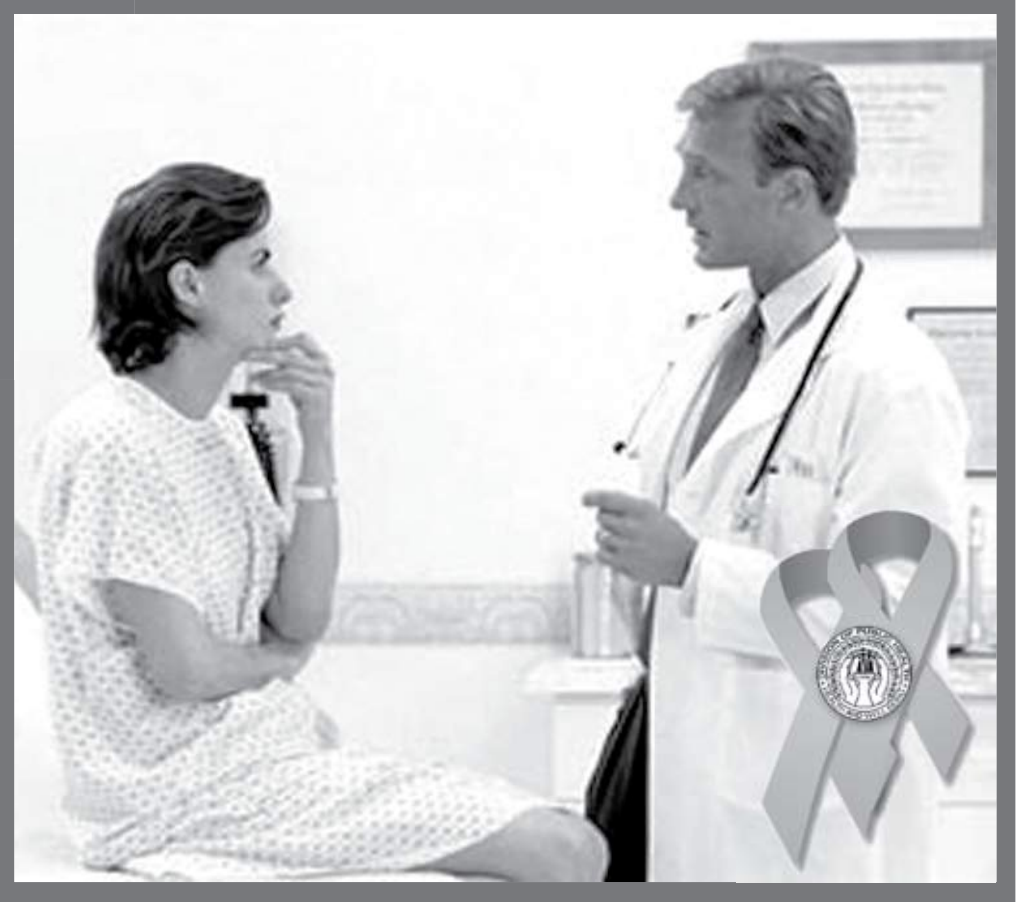

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

What about the children?

A national commission starts work to make sure the young aren't forgotten during disasters

The National Commission on Children and Disasters will finally hold its first meeting Tuesday—nine months after Congress gave it statutory life and three years after Hurricane Katrina laid waste the Gulf Coast and exposed the stunning lack of forethought about or preparation for the evacuation, shelter and repatriation of children and their families. The experience of families during Hurricane Ike only highlighted the necessity of this effort.

The commission will have 16 months to develop regulatory and legislative recommendations for the president and Congress. These steps were taken for pets two years ago: In the wake of Katrina, federal authorities moved speedily to require disaster plans for states and localities to include plans for pets and service animals. They also made federal funds available to provide for the "rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs" of pets and their owners. Children and their families deserve the same consideration.

According to a field report by Save the Children from San Antonio, a cavernous warehouse used as a shelter during Hurricane Ike was not exactly suitable for families with children. There were no portable cribs for infants and small children. As a result, little ones were free to roam the huge facility. One was seen near a busy road. Many of the cots were far from restrooms, which were portable toilets outside the facility. The showers were in the parking lot. The lack of planning for the needs of families and small children added enormous strain to an already stressful situation.

The first children's commission meeting is expected to focus on a broad variety of issues, including long-term housing and mental health. Another issue to be examined is child care. The lack of it hurts working parents and plays a role in keeping them from returning home or getting back into the workforce. This could have particular resonance in Galveston, Texas. Two out of 30 child-care centers reopened last week, a month after the barrier island was clobbered by Hurricane Ike. The sooner the commission can get recommendations to Congress and those proposals become law, the sooner children will no longer be afterthoughts to the officials charged with providing for their safety.

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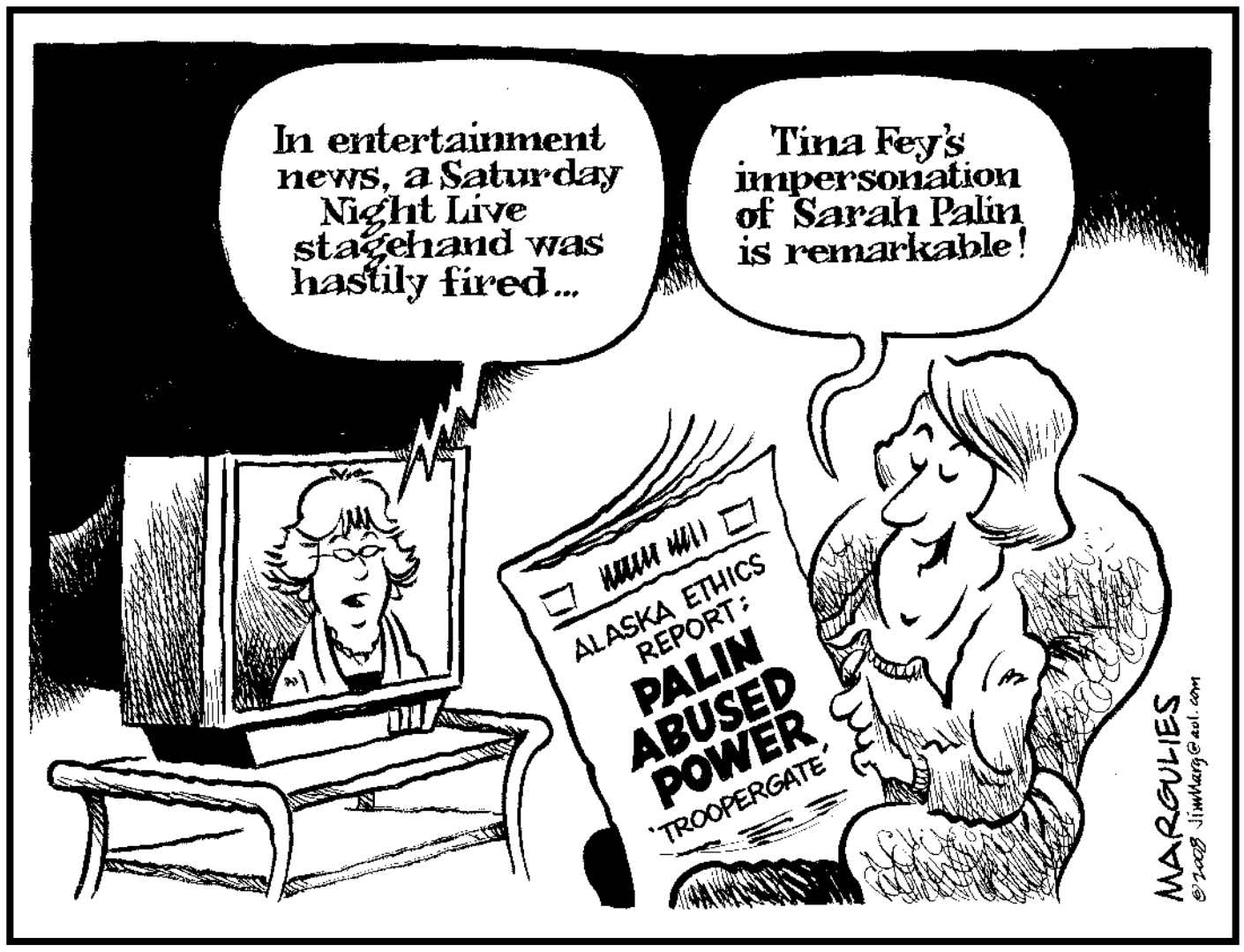
In entertainment news, a Saturday Night Live stagehand was hastily fired...
Tina Fey's impersonation of Sarah Palin is remarkable!
ALASKA ETHICS REPORT:
PALIN ABUSED POWER
'TROOPERGATE'
MARGULIES
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Thinking conservatives are the MIAs of the GOP

By ROSA BROOKS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. E-mail her at rbrooks@latimescolumnists.com.

Liberals haven't had so much fun in decades.

Aside from the dwindling size of our 401(k)s, life is treating us well. True, we're heading into a major recession. But that's OK: That just presents us with new opportunities to Do Good. And while we wait for President Obama to bring us New Deal 2.0, we'll also get a few giggles out of watching the Bush administration preside over the nationalization of the nation's financial sector. (Tip: Practice saying "social democracy." Also, practice saying "Told ya so!" with compassion.)

Maybe most fun of all, we're getting to watch a steady procession of rats leaving the sinking GOP ship.

One by one, the nation's more reputable conservatives have been edging away from the Republican presidential ticket. It started with John McCain's choice of Sarah Palin as his running mate. Thinking conservatives—as of a couple of months ago, there were still a few left—were distinctly underwhelmed. In *The New York Times*, David Brooks chastised McCain for "throw(ing) away standards of experience and prudence" by picking Palin. In *The Washington Post*, Charles Krauthammer said Palin was "not ready" for prime time. David Frum, a former Bush speechwriter and fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, complained that Palin had "thoroughly—and probably irretrievably—proven that she is not up to the job." In *The National Review*, conservative columnist Kathleen Parker said Palin was "clearly out of her league" and urged her to "bow out."

For liberals initially alarmed by McCain's brief post-convention poll bounce, this was fun. And as conservative disdain spread to the whole GOP ticket, the fun got even funner.

In *The Washington Post*, George Will slammed McCain for his "fact-free slander," "substitution of vehemence for coherence" and "boiling moralism." On MSNBC, former Reagan speechwriter and *Wall Street Journal* columnist Peggy Noonan admitted that she's not sure who she'll be voting for this November: "Ahh. Umm. I'm thinking it through."

Then—more fun—some conservatives began to actually endorse Barack Obama. Wick Allison, a former publisher of the *National Review*, wrote that today's brand of conservatism "has produced financial mismanagement, the waste of human lives, the loss of moral authority, and the wreckage of our economy that McCain now threatens to make worse. ... Obama is almost the ideal candidate for this moment in American history."

Christopher Hitchens, who has spent the last five years deriding the Democratic position on Iraq as that of "the surrender faction," endorsed Obama too, concluding "the Republican Party has invited not just defeat but discredit this year, and ... both its nominees for the highest offices in the land should be decisively repudiated."

Whee! Incredibly, the fun continued. Christopher Buckley, *National Review* columnist and son of conservative icon William F. Buckley, also endorsed Obama: "Obama has in him ... the potential to be a good, perhaps even great leader. ... And so, for the first time ... I'll be pulling the Democratic lever in November." For his pains, Buckley received hundreds of vituperative e-mails from former admirers on the right. Effectively, he said Tuesday, he's been "fatwaed by the conservative movement." He resigned from *The National Review*.

But enjoyable as it's been to watch conservatives flee from the GOP, something about all this leaves me feeling a little down. Because as the more respectable, literate conservatives distance themselves from the GOP, increasingly, the only ones left on the right are paranoid, rage-driven, xenophobic nuts. Bitter? You betcha! Twisted too!

Even for a liberal, it's painful to watch. Once, the GOP proudly claimed to be the "party of ideas." They weren't generally good ideas, it's true—but they were ideas—eloquently defended by men and women who believed it was their duty to study history, philosophy, science, economics and international relations and to do the intellectual heavy lifting needed to try to persuade smart people with different views to come around to their way of thinking. That was the GOP nurtured by conservative intellectuals such as William Buckley. Buckley was many things liberals didn't admire, but he wasn't ignorant, savage or stupid by choice.

But today, as the last few sober grown-ups leave the party, the visible face of the GOP increasingly looks like that of the people who shout "kill him!" when Obama's name comes up, who speak of black men they don't like as "uppity" or as "boys," who think you can't trust a Muslim or an Arab, who think talking about "Barack Hussein Osama" is witty and (I'm talking to you, Sarah Palin and John McCain) who claim Obama "pals around with terrorists."

This isn't really that funny anymore.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The brother she never knew

By MARC FISHER
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—The airport isn't a very happy place right now—grim-faced business travelers trudge in from another gloom-and-doom meeting, families fret over fares, airline workers seem jumpy and glum. So it shouldn't have been surprising that a crowd of total strangers gathered around Angie Scurlock at the Dulles international arrivals gate to watch as she nearly burst out of her skin to meet her half brother, Hans Engel.

At 49, Scurlock was laying eyes on one of her three siblings for the first time. Five months ago, Scurlock didn't know she had any siblings.

Now, thanks to determined detective work by an American woman in Germany who devotes herself to reuniting adoptees with long-lost relatives, a black woman who was raised by the owners of a D.C. liquor store would find out just what she had in common with a German truck driver who grew up in an orphanage.

How would Scurlock even know which passenger was Hans, asked her friend from work at the U.S. Patent Office in Alexandria, Va.

"I'll know," Scurlock said.

She did, instantly. So did everyone else in the hall. The color of their skin was different, but pretty much everything else about sister and brother seemed eerily familiar—eyes, nose, shape of the face, build, and their instinct about what to do first. They hugged and they kissed. They caressed each other's cheeks and nestled against each other's shoulders.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Angie Scurlock of Charles County, Md., pose with her newfound half brother, Hans Engel, right, and his son Benjamin Engel, who flew from Germany to meet her. Scurlock, who was adopted from Germany, did not know until recently she had any siblings.

On the basis of a visit from a stranger bearing adoption records, Engel, 59, and his son, Benjamin, had gotten on a plane, making Engel's first trip to the United States, to see a woman who was his first link to the mother he had never known.

The story begins, like so many of this sort, with war and love. Germany at the end of World War II was chockablock with American soldiers. Over the course of the decade after the war, Inge Engel, a German whose father had been killed in the war, had four children by four different men, two of them U.S. servicemen. Inge left one son to be taken into the German foster-care system at birth; another son was adopted by a German family. Her two daughters, both biracial, were adopted by black American military couples.

Inge eventually married another American soldier and moved to the United States. But aside from one quick visit when Angie was 3 years old, there was no contact between the mother and her children.

Angie didn't find out that she was adopted until she was 11. One day at home in Southeast Washington, as they watched "One Life to Live" on TV, a friend of Angie's adoptive mother asked the girl: "Do you know what `adopted' means?"

In the vaguest terms, the friend told Angie that her parents weren't who she thought. But not a word about adoption ever passed between Angie and her parents. "I had a good life," Scurlock says. "I had a pony, I had a minibike. I didn't see the need to rock the boat."

Only decades later, after her adoptive parents had died, did she act on that shred of information.

In 1995, she found her biological mother's sister in Colorado. But the sister wouldn't divulge details, telling Angie only that "you were a one-night stand."

Then, this year, over Memorial Day weekend, Scurlock got a call. "Hi," a woman said. "I'm your sister."

Deborah Bufford, 51, was calling from Oklahoma, where her adoptive family settled after their time in Germany. Bufford had always known she was adopted from Germany, but she knew little else. "I kept asking and asking, but my adoptive parents were reluctant to give anything out," she says.

Three years ago, Bufford contacted Angela Shelley, a researcher who specializes in connecting American adoptees with their German relations. Shelley hit a dead-end when German authorities refused to open Bufford's adoption files. Only after Inge died did the archives open up.

This June, after many months of calls and letters, Shelley obtained enough of the file to determine that there were four half siblings, none of whom knew of each other's existence. She found one half brother, Hans, and visited him with the documents; the other half brother, Werner, has not been located.

Meanwhile, Bufford used the German records to find Scurlock on the Internet. But after that Memorial Day call, Scurlock wanted to be certain. "I made Deborah take a DNA test," she says. "So many lies had been told to me, I just had to know for a fact. We did the test and she is my sister."

Sadly, Bufford says, "finances and circumstances" prevented her from coming to Washington to meet Hans.

She's missing a White House visit, a limousine tour of the monuments and a week at Scurlock's home in Charles County, Md. But mostly, she's missing a brother's smile and a lifetime of stories—and the answer to the question that most plagued Scurlock.

"I always longed for a family, especially around the holidays, my own family," Scurlock told me before Hans arrived. "But I am very nervous. I don't know what he'll think when he sees me. I mean, when he sees what I look like."

At the airport, Hans saw the sister he had always dreamed of. Four years ago, he says, he put himself under hypnosis and suddenly perceived two sisters.

"Until two weeks ago, I only knew that my mother left me lying in the hospital where I was born," he says. "My father visited me a couple of times when I was very young, but we lost contact by age 8 or 10, and I never saw him again."

Angie and Hans have no common language, so, over chicken wings in Reston, Va., I translated stories back and forth. But Scurlock tapped me on the arm: "Ask him," she said. "What did you think when you first saw me?"

"Oh, such joy!" Hans replied.

"But what did you expect to see?"

"My sister who looks like me."

Angie wasn't satisfied. "Ask him specifically," she told me.

I translated her words: "Is it OK to you that your sister is black?"

Hans grabbed onto Angie by both shoulders. "As a child," he said, "in the orphanage, I was with the guest workers"—the German term for immigrants brought to the country to do manual labor—"from Italy, Africa, everywhere. Those were my friends, and I saw how they were treated. I have no problem with black or yellow or any color. Seeing you answers my greatest wish. You are my greatest wish."

Angie Scurlock turned to face her brother. They hugged for a very long time.

Gods that failed

By HAROLD MEYERSON
Special to The Washington Post

Meyerson is editor-at-large of American Prospect *and the* L.A. Weekly.

In 1949, a number of famous writers, among them Arthur Koestler, Andre Gide, Richard Wright, Stephen Spender and Ignazio Silone, wrote essays explaining why they were no longer communists. The essays were collected in a volume titled "The God That Failed."

Today, conservative intellectuals might want to consider writing a tome on the failure of their own beloved deity, unregulated capitalism. The fall of the financial system has been so fast and far-reaching that there's been no time to fully consider its implications for the reigning economic theology of the past 30 years. But with the most right-wing administration in modern American history scurrying to nationalize the banks, the question cannot be elided indefinitely.

What exactly do economic conservatives believe now that their god is dead? What's become of the glories of privatized Social Security? Of the merits of 401(k)s vs. defined-benefit pensions?

No wonder we've seen a disoriented John McCain wandering the moors howling about Bill Ayers. What's he supposed to do? Admit that the Reagan-Thatcher faith in unregulated capitalism, to which every GOP presidential candidate was pledging allegiance just last winter, has collapsed? The doctrine of laissez faire has been so dominant, so pervasive over the past three decades that hundreds of Democratic politicians can deliver a paean to the market at the drop of a hat, but not a single Republican pol can plausibly defend government as a check on capitalism run amok, even at the drop of thousands of points in the Dow.

Indeed, the gospel of market self-sufficiency had powerful Democratic adherents, too. Back in the '90s, both Republican Alan Greenspan and Democrat Robert Rubin played key roles in making sure that the financial sector's market in derivatives would go unregulated, though Warren Buffett and George Soros both likened that market to a nuclear bomb waiting to explode.

If the collapse of the markets has left conservatism and Rubin's Wall Street centrism in tatters, it has handed liberalism the task of building a more sustainable economy from the wreckage of the old. But with the Bush administration still in office, liberals find themselves racing both events and Hank Paulson to shape an equitable solution to the crisis. It was congressional liberals who insisted that the government have the power to take an equity position in the banks—something that Paulson initially opposed and today embraces.

Now liberals must turn their attention to the kind of financial nationalization on which we're about to embark. Paulson wants to shore up the banks with public funds but also to continue entrusting our banking system to the same bankers who got us into this fix, albeit with more regulation. But why shouldn't banks that take public money be compelled to seat a public member or two on their boards, as a check against their repeating old follies or committing new ones? Economic Policy Institute founder Jeff Faux says the government should control one major bank to use as a yardstick in the financial sector, just as public utilities constrain the misconduct of private ones.

Today's ideological crisis isn't confined merely to the doctrine of laissez faire. The credo of budget-balancing has become nonsensical with the economy seemingly headed for a deep recession. With banks ceasing to lend, businesses laying off workers, state and local governments slashing services and shedding employees, homeowners defaulting in record numbers, and consumers cutting back, a massive federal stimulus is all that stands between the nation and economic calamity.

McCain and Barack Obama disagree sharply on the government's role in bolstering the economy. Obama favors public outlays on alternative energy and education, which would not only create jobs but also make us more competitive globally. McCain still supports a governmental spending freeze, though he calls for a $300 billion tax cut chiefly for the rich—who, given current economic conditions, are more likely to stuff their loot in the mattress than invest it productively. Having spent his career championing the policies that resulted in the meltdown, McCain now champions policies that will turn recession to depression. He's entitled to his beliefs, but the nation can't afford to worship at the altar of these failed gods.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	.Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

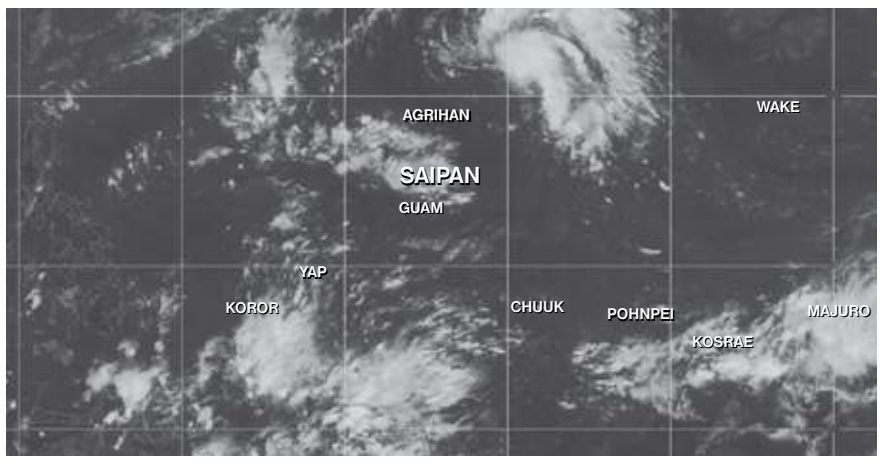
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼50
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼50
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼74
London	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼46
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼58
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲79	▼48
Miami	Cloudy	▲85	▼74
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼46
Osaka	Sunny	▲73	▼56
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼46
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼57
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼54
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68	▼54
Seoul	Cloudy	▲70	▼50
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼57
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲64	▼47

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Upper-level divergence is enhancing the formation of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Saipan, Tinian and northwestward to south of Iwo To island within 115 miles of a line from 16N146E to 18N135E to 24N137E. A low-level circulation is centered southwest of Minamitori Shima near 21N151E. With strong upper-level divergence in the vicinity numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Minamitori Shima or north of a line from 20N149E to 16N156E to 21N159E. A surface trough extends eastward from a circulation over the southern Philippines to near Koror at 7N135E then turns southeastward to end at EQ138E. Aided by favorable upper-level dynamics scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis over Koror but south of Yap or south of a line from 8N134E to 4N148E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers from south of Pohnpei across Kosrae to south of Kwajalein within 135 miles of a line from 3N156E to 6N168E. Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms are seen over Majuro and northeastward to the dateline within 160 Miles of a line from 6N168E to 10N180. A low pressure system is centered northeast of Wake Island near 23N180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are forming near the system center up to 170 miles west of 180 between 21N and 25N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:36AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:58AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:09PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:42PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09AM	5:54 PM
Monday	6:10AM	5:54 PM
Tuesday	6:10AM	5:53 PM
Wednesday	6:10AM	5:53 PM
Thursday	6:10AM	5:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:53PM	10:27AM
Monday	10:58PM	11:28AM
Tuesday		12:24PM
Wednesday	12:00AM	1:14PM
Thursday	12:59AM	1:58PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

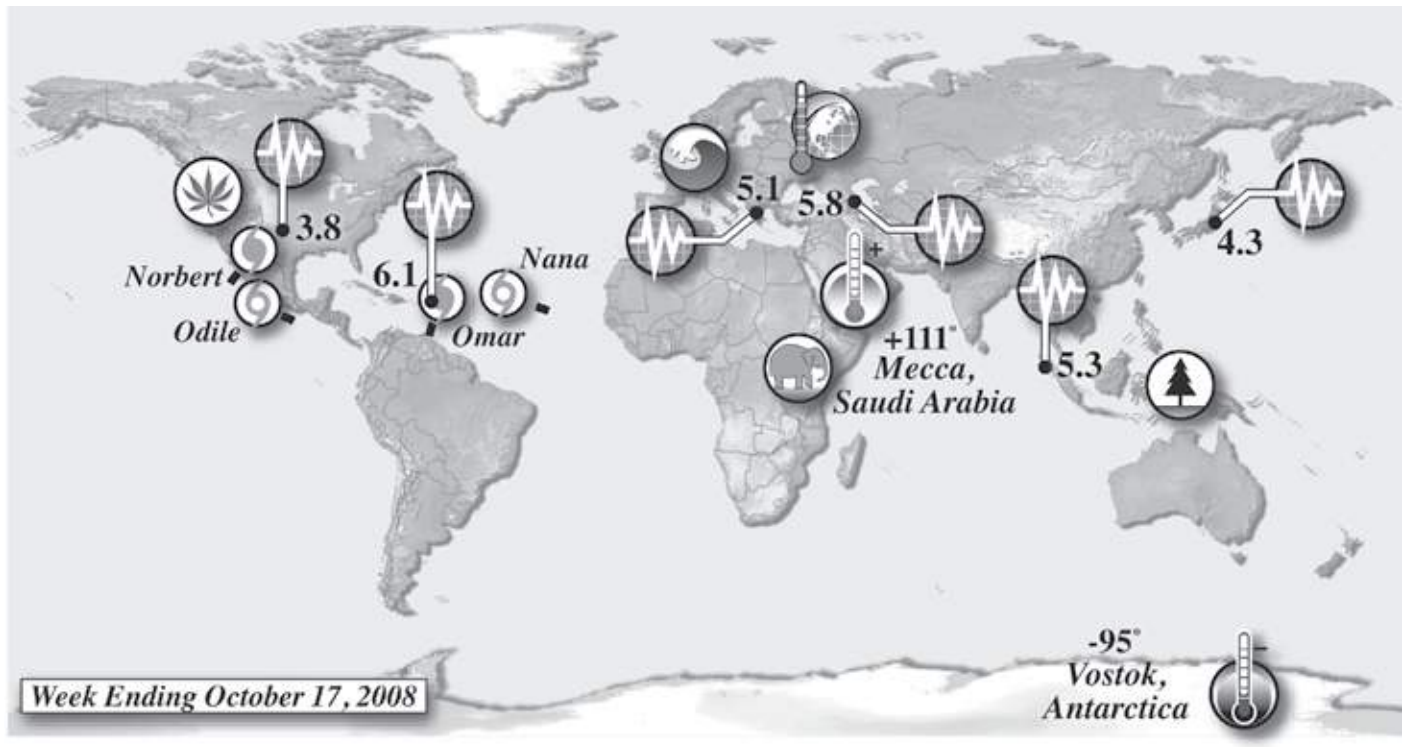
Sunday Morning prayer	5:30am-6:30am	
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Rising Tide

A pair of senior German researchers says the U.N. prediction that sea level will rise only by about 7 to 23 inches this century is out of date, and the level of the ocean around the world is likely to rise more than three feet instead over that period. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, who heads the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, and Jochem Marotzke, a leading meteorologist, say the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report that gave the earlier prediction was based on data up to only 2005. Schellnhuber and Marotzke believe that the record loss of Arctic ice over the past two summers, and the accelerated melt of the Greenland ice sheet, mean that sea level rise over coming decades is likely to be much higher than earlier predicted.

Pot Pollution

Some of America's national parks and forests are becoming among the most polluted places in the country due to the use of toxic chemicals by farmers who illegally grow marijuana on public land. The Associated Press reports that large quantities of some defoliants and insecticides, which have long been banned in the U.S., are being smuggled into the remote farms. Officials say they have found that rat poison has been used to keep animals away from the pot crops, and there is evidence that plant growth hormones have been dumped into streams and then pumped to the pot fields through networks of PVC pipes. Several hundred illicit growing sites were found on U.S. Forest Service land in California alone during 2006 and 2007. Many other growing operations were uncovered in West Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky.

Forest Alert

Greenpeace warns that palm oil companies in Indonesia's remote easternmost Papua region are clearing vast swathes of virgin forests to expand their plantations. The group called on the government to stop issuing land conversion permits to the giant corporations that want to fell tropical forests in what once was among the world's most inaccessible areas. Greenpeace campaigner Bustar Maitar points to the devastation inflicted on the other Indonesian islands of Borneo and Sumatra, where deforestation has obliterated once-great forests and the homes of the creatures that lived there.

Tropical Cyclones

Authorities say at least four people were killed by Hurricane Norbert when it swept across northwestern Mexico's Baja California peninsula and state of Sonora, triggering flash floods.

■ Category-3 Hurricane Omar downed hundreds of power lines and trees on St. Croix when it skirted the eastern tip of that U.S. Virgin Island. The storm later weakened in the central Atlantic.

■ Tropical Storm Nana formed briefly in the mid-Atlantic, and Tropical Storm Odile drenched parts of southern Mexico's Pacific coast.

Earthquakes

A strong quake in southern Russia's former breakaway Chechen Republic killed at least 13 people and damaged more than 1,000 buildings and facilities, according to the Russian Ministry for Emergencies.

■ Earth movements were also felt in the Texas Panhandle, Virgin Islands, northern Sumatra, southern Greece and metropolitan Tokyo.

Warming Health

An event marking the U.N.'s World Food Day highlighted the growing health threat climate change poses to food, water safety and nutrition. In a statement issued at the seminar in Rome, organizers cautioned that higher temperatures will favor the growth of harmful bacteria in food. Hotter conditions may also promote the emergence of flies or other pests, and make it easier for diseases to be transmitted to humans from other animals. The statement said that Europe and central Asia were at the greatest risks of such perils, advising officials there to bolster disease surveillance and ensure that water supplies remain safe as the climate warms.

Pachyderm Texting

Kenya has launched an experimental program to use mobile phone technology and GPS to monitor elephants with a history of raiding crops outside their nature preserve. The move by the group Save the Elephants came after the Kenya Wildlife Service was forced two years ago to reluctantly shoot five of the animals that refused to stop raiding crops. In June, a mobile phone SIM card was placed in the collar of an elephant named Kimani that had been spared. Now, if the animal approaches a virtual "geofence," a text message with its exact location is sent to rangers, who then guide the wandering jumbo back into the reserve. Kimani once raided crops almost nightly, but he has been kept away from farmers' fields for the past four months with the new technology.

Universal Press Syndicate
www.earthweek.com
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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman obliges after husband begs to be shot

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—Authorities said a woman who shot her husband in the knee won't face charges because he begged her to do it. The Arapahoe County Sheriff's office said a 35-year-old woman accused her husband of being drunk and becoming violent during an argument. She took control of a handgun during the dispute and claimed her husband begged her to shoot him and told her to 'finish it' after she fired a shot. The sheriff's office said the 34-year-old husband was uncooperative with deputies before he was taken into custody and hospitalized. He was now being held at the Arapahoe County jail after his wife accused him of forcing her into the bathroom and holding a gun to her head before the shooting.

Man sues Fla. strip club over dancer's flying shoe

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—An angry wife or girlfriend might not be the only thing to worry about when visiting a strip club. A man suing a Pompano Beach club claims a performer's shoe flew off during a pole dance, shattered the mirrored ceiling and caused glass and the shoe to hit him. The lawsuit filed in Broward County by 35-year-old Charles Privette says the Booby Trap breached its duty when its employee failed to perform her routine in a reasonably safe manner. The suit seeks at least $15,000 in damages. Privette's attorney says his client suffered a small cut to his eyebrow, headaches and nose bleeds because of the Jan. 14 pole dance.

British burglar says 'sorry' with flowers

LONDON (AP)—A repentant robber in England sent his elderly victim a bouquet of flowers to apologize for frightening her, police said Friday. A 91-year-old woman received the flowers and a note after confronting a burglar in her home around 4 a.m. on Oct. 9, police said. The card explained that the burglar thought the property in Halifax, about 200 miles north of London, was empty and apologized for breaking in. Police said the woman was "very shaken" by the confrontation. "Whoever did this has a conscience, and feels guilty for what he has done," West Yorkshire Police Det. Insp. Tony Nicholson said in a statement. Police said the burglar fled the house empty-handed and appealed for him to come forward.

Good Housekeeping

Some easy fixes for hard times

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

The good news about the wild and worrisome economy is that it compels us to hunker down at home and spend more time with family. The downside is that the more time we spend at home, the more we begin to notice the rooms that lack a certain luster.

We contacted more than a dozen designers and asked them to share some inside information that would help us freshen up our homes easily. We wanted the best ideas in their personal design arsenal: What techniques they use, what colors they like, what products they turn to, what problem-solvers they rely on again and again because they always work.

One favorite came from Washington designer Matthew Swingley, who likes two-sided pillows. "I like to do custom pillows with different fabrics on the front and back," he said. "This gives clients the ability to flip the pillows whenever they want a new look."

Another Washington designer, David Mitchell, shared his approach. "Neutral colors are very popular in Washington," he said, "but a neutral room can be achieved by using colors other than beige." He suggests mixing natural colors such as khaki, brown, green and gray with ivory, beige and palomino. Bring in contrast with fabrics.

"With this combination of color, pattern and texture, you'll still have a neutral palette, but it will be much more graphic and interesting," Mitchell said.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The authors contacted more than a dozen designers and asked them to share some inside information that would help us freshen up our homes easily. David Mitchell, of Washington, suggests mixing neutral colors with natural hues such as khaki, brown, green and gray with ivory, beige and palomino and add contrast with fabrics.

A *few secrets from the pros*

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Hang Window Treatments High

A good starting point in any home or with any style (traditional or modern) is to hang drapery panels right underneath the crown molding. In the absence of molding, hang the drapery rod as close to the ceiling as possible. Doing so will accentuate the height of the room (whatever that may be) and make windows appear larger than they are. This technique becomes more imperative the shorter the ceilings are.

—Barry Dixon, Warrenton, Va.

Ring-Top Curtains Without Pleats

This is a modern, unfussy look for draperies. The bonus: Curtains without pleats require less fabric and labor, which means less cost.

—Annie Elliott, Washington

THE WASHINGTON POST

To make windows appear larger than they are, hang draperies as high on a wall as possible

A Custom Look for Less

Buy solid-color, ready-made drapery panels from retail chains, and add your own trim to the edge. If you don't sew, a dry cleaners should be able to do this for you.

—Victoria Neale, Washington

See A FEW on next page

Designers share their favorite tricks for brightening up rooms

THE WASHINGTON POST

A crystal chandelier was removed from this dining room to make way for a drum shade. A new light fixture can alter the atmosphere in a room almost instantly, especially in a small space.

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Use Big Patterns in Small Spaces

It makes the space feel bigger. It's counterintuitive, but it works.

—Victoria Neale, Washington

Rethink the Light Fixture

A new light fixture can alter the atmosphere in a room almost instantly, especially in a small space. Even a simple lampshade change can have huge impact. Keep an eye out at garage sales, thrift stores or salvage lots for fixtures with personality. Don't forget to add dimmer switches.

—Patrick J. Baglino Jr., Washington

Keep Collections Together

Group a collection of art or objects in one area, rather than spreading the items throughout a home. Displaying a collection of things you love together, such as white pottery, antique boxes, candlesticks, art or books, creates more drama and adds a personal touch to your environment. The objects themselves become more than just "things."

—Daren Miller, Washington

Frame Artwork Larger to Better Fit the Scale of a Large Wall

Increasing the mat on one side of a framed piece of artwork will make the art appear larger and will take up more wall space. In addition, the extra white space of the matting will bring more focus and importance to whatever is framed. This costs much less than purchasing a larger piece of art and can give old art and photos a new lease on life.

—Raji Radhakrishnan, Brambleton, Va.

Home decor for teens

By KATHLEEN HOM
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

There are some immediate and fun ways to perk up a room for teens. Designers we consulted recommended some proven stand-bys:

■ Bean bag chairs covered in fabric are comfortable and encourage kids to lounge around. They're available in a range of colors and styles and can be purchased at everyday neighborhood stores, including Walmart and Target, or speciality online shops, such as www.thebeanbagchairoutlet.com.

■ Teens prefer color rather than neutrals, which they think are "boring." Consult teens on what color they'd prefer; be aware that color doesn't mean primary colors or bright neons but usually a more sophisticated, mature range.

■ They're also keen on a place for self-expression, meaning an area to post messages to friends, hang photos or art. This can be a simple bulletin board or a rotating art exhibit. If you're willing to put in a little more effort, you can transform one corner into a magnetic wall, chalkboard wall or mural with some paint. Added bonus: creating an area specifically devoted to this activity can dissuade teens from carving into furniture and leaving their permanent impression.

A *few favorite things*

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

St. Thomas Creations's Richmond pedestal lavatory (from $440)

This sink is clean-lined and elegant and looks great with a variety of eight-inch widespread faucets. (One favorite is Grohe's Seabury faucet, which is available in polished chrome with cross handles).—Annie Elliott

Large narrow neck vase form from Circa Lighting ($420)

This lamp works well in bedrooms, living rooms and even laundry rooms. It comes in many colors and the shape goes with everything. —Tracy Morris

Tufted storage ottoman from Ballard Designs (starts at $399)

Upholstered ottomans are a great alternative to coffee tables. This storage ottoman is a nice price and perfect for families with small children. It can be upholstered in a customer's own fabric, too.—Sally Steponkus

Deadbolt technology makes hollow 'rocks' obsolete

By DAN NEIL
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

You know, people don't take enough time to sit outside alone and just think. Listen to the birds. Feel the wind on their faces. Wonder when their spouses are coming home to unlock the door.

Last week, I locked myself out of the house. For four hours I waited, in damp, 90-degree heat that fused my unmentionables to places even more unmentionable. In houses past, this wouldn't have been a problem. I would have shimmied through an unlocked window or figured out some other form of self-burglary. However, our current dwelling is like a residential Fort Knox, with automatic lights, window and door alarms, motion sensors and 911 on the security system's speed dial. I couldn't get in.

The beauty of Kwikset's SmartScan deadbolt lock—which reads fingerprints using the emerging technology of biometrics—is that you can always get in the house, unless you somehow forget your finger.

The principles of biometrics are familiar to any fifth-grader who has watched a James Bond movie. The technology scans and measures a unique biological feature—fingerprint, palm print, retinal or iris pattern—and compares it with a sample on file using fancy mathematics. If the scan and the record on file match, voila—you have access to the evil genius' computer core, or whatever.

Fingerprint scanning is now commonplace; you can buy a fingerprint-lock USB device for your computer for less than $50.

The technology was fairly hackable in the past. The guys on the Discovery Channel show "MythBusters" unlocked a device using the Xerox of a fingerprint, and some enterprising Japanese hacker replicated a finger using Gummi bears.

But now, fingerprint scanning is a pretty robust and reliable form of security. The Kwikset lock, for instance, looks below the surface of the skin using radio frequency scanning, picking up landmarks of your subdermal print. That means that your finger doesn't have to be perfectly clean or dry for the lock to work. As the father of 1-year-old twins, I find my fingers rarely are clean or dry.

Also, the lock will not operate if the finger in question has been separated from its owner. This addresses my first concern about this technology—that a routine burglary might escalate into a digit-removing nightmare and one of the unlikeliest sentences ever uttered: "Give me the finger!"

"If you don't have a live person, it's not going to work," Kwikset spokesman Eric Lundquist said. I only hope this fact is well known in the home-invasion industry.

With the SmartScan, your finger's the key.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The SmartScan deadbolt retails for about $200; however, at a Home Depot in Los Angeles two weeks ago, the devices had been put on clearance for $149. I asked Lundquist about the lock being put in the discount bin. "It appeals to a demographic that would spend $200 on a lock, when you can get a deadbolt for $25," Lundquist said. Apparently, said demographic doesn't include DIYers. "It's more for early-adopter types."

Installation was easy. No external wiring is required; the device uses four AA batteries, which Kwikset says will last for more than a year of heavy use. I removed the old deadbolt, assembled the device in the door and zapped in five screws. Programming the lock was easy, although it took a couple tries to register my index finger as the "administrator." Among the SmartScan features are the ability to hold up to 50 fingerprints and to restrict access for some people—housekeepers, nannies, caregivers—to certain times of the day and week.

"If you wanted to lock your teenagers out after 10 o'clock, you could do that," Lundquist said. Tell me this guy isn't in marketing!

In 20 minutes I had the handsome unit, in satin nickel finish, installed and powered up. To open my front door now, I only have to run the tip of my finger under the sensor. About a second later, the motor pulls the bolt back. To lock the door, I only need to tap the sensor three times. The lock also has a tumbler set and key if you want to open the door old-school.

Alas, the lock isn't quite as robust as I had hoped. I returned from a recent business trip to discover the latch handle had come out. Some re-assembly is required.

Of course, this lock is convenient for households with children, who tend to lose their house keys. (Now we can have biometric latchkey kids.) And sure, it's nice not to have to fumble for keys when you get to the door with your hands full. Also, I think the future-tech look of the lock might discourage intruders by suggesting that more high-tech security measures also might be in place.

But, clearly, and, I think, indisputably, this technology is directed at aging boomers whose minds are increasingly slipping their neural gears.

Think about it: The SmartScan lock effectively does no more than one of those decorative rocks you can hide a key in (and decorative rocks are a lot cheaper). This is a product for people so addled that they can't remember in which rock they hid the key.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Cherry Cupcakes

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine, softened
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon sugar
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon almond extract
1/3 cup whole milk
2 cup pitted tart cherries, or 1 can (14.5 ounces) pitted tart cherries in water, well-drained
1/4 cup sliced almonds

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Line 18 muffin-pan cups with fluted paper liners.

2. On waxed paper, combine flour, baking powder and salt.

3. In large bowl, with mixer at low speed, beat butter and 1 cup sugar until mixed. Increase speed to medium; beat until creamy, about 2 minutes, occasionally scraping bowl with rubber spatula. With mixer at low speed, beat in eggs, 1 at a time, until blended, scraping bowl often.

4. Stir extracts into milk. To butter mixture, add flour mixture alternately with milk mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Beat batter just until blended, occasionally scraping bowl with rubber spatula. Gently fold in cherries.

5. Spoon batter into prepared cups (cups will be almost full). Sprinkle with almonds and remaining 1 tablespoon sugar.

6. Bake cupcakes 20 to 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cupcakes cool in pans 10 minutes. Remove from pans to wire rack; cool completely.

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clearing up mold

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Q: Our first floor recently was flooded during a period of heavy rain. We've since cleaned up, dried out all the furniture and replaced the area rugs (there are no carpets on the first floor). However, there is a mold smell throughout the house. I thought we had taken care of all the wet areas. Any ideas?—Tamara C., DeBary, Fla.

A: Water damage can be tough to completely repair. You've dried out your floors and the furniture appears dry, but there may be some hidden areas of the house that haven't been addressed.

Double-check your furniture: Moisture could have been wicked up through the cloth all the way through the padding. If the furniture has a wood frame, the wood beneath the padding may have stayed wet despite the cloth drying out. Additional drying sessions may be needed, or you can contact a furniture restoration specialist for tips.

The walls themselves may also be culprits. Check the base of the walls as high as the water went—if there is wallpaper covering the area, peel back a one-foot section of the paper to see the drywall beneath. Drywall (aka sheetrock) is susceptible to mold after severe flooding.

Check any area of your home that doesn't see much traffic, such as the crawlspace under the house, the garage, storage closets and so on. Look for standing water or excess moisture, and dry out those spots.

Finally, check your air conditioning and ventilation system—the outside unit may have been flooded and not dried out completely, or mold may be present inside the vents. An HVAC contractor can help clean the system.

Visible, surface mold can be quickly removed by wiping with a rag dipped in a half-and-half solution of bleach and water (wear rubber gloves, goggles and dust mask while doing this). However, if mold has set in to drywall or wood paneling, that section of drywall or paneling must be replaced.

Meantime, place a dehumidifier on your first floor to reduce the overall humidity and retard growth of mold spores.

home tip

HOME TIP: The Environmental Protection Agency provides details and more tips on preventing and repairing mold problems. Visit its Web site at http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldresources.html.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

A FEW

From Page 10

THE WASHINGTON POST
New cushions can make a big difference in an old upholstered sofa.

Update an Old Sofa

An old upholstered sofa can be updated using four basic elements:

■ Replace existing back cushions with cushions that don't go over the sofa arm. This creates a more modern and simple look and helps the cushions keep their shape.

■ Don't use piping or self-welting on the edges of cushions or arms.

■ Add a "waterfall" skirt to create a more tailored look. (A waterfall skirt falls from directly below the cushion line to the floor without interruption.)

■ Replace a set of three narrow seat cushions with two wider ones. Do the same for back cushions. In some cases, one long cushion on the back and one for the seat can make the look even more modern.

—Nestor Santa-Cruz, Washington

Use Fabric on the Reverse

When patterned textiles are used on the reverse side, the pattern becomes more hushed. This is often a nice compromise when partners may have disparate tastes or tolerance for pattern. This also prevents the pattern from becoming too dominant in a neutral setting.

—Darryl Carter, Washington

Turn a special piece into a focal point

Accent a favorite furnishing or antique by placing it in front of a wall color that will make it stand out. For example, a dark mahogany piece would stand out in front of a rich, green-based beige, such as Benjamin Moore's Sag Harbor Gray. A light Swedish piece can become a striking focal point placed in front of a color such as Benjamin Moore's Swiss Blue.

—Tracy Morris, Washington

Consider the Waterfall Table

One of the hallmarks of this table is its versatility. It's sleek, modern and sculptural, so it works in a contemporary space, but it's simple and unassuming, so it also works in a traditional setting. The table's see-through quality means it doesn't take up any visual space, making it a good choice for both large and small spaces. It's practical, too: easy to clean, sturdy enough to withstand lots of beautiful books piled on top and no sharp edges where children might hurt themselves. This particular table is sold only to the design trade, but CB2 (www.cb2.com) has a similar version that is smaller and lower, but still a good designer impostor.

—Sally Steponkus, Washington

THE WASHINGTON POST
One of the hallmarks of the waterfall table is its versatility. It's sleek, modern and sculptural, so it works in a contemporary space, but it's simple and unassuming, so it also works in a traditional setting.

The Good Life

Exhibit offers delightful look at dilettanti

By DIANE HAITHMAN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sir Humphry Wakefield, 72, on the phone from Chillingham Castle in England, was eager to talk about his role as a proud member of the Society of Dilettanti, an exclusive men's club founded in 1734. But first he needed to check on one of the horses, which he thought might have sustained an injury earlier in the day.

"We have several. They come and they go," Wakefield said, unable to remember the exact horse count at his castle upon calling back to report that this one had turned out to be fine. "They chase after foxes and they jump over jumps and they play horse games. They have a lot of fun."

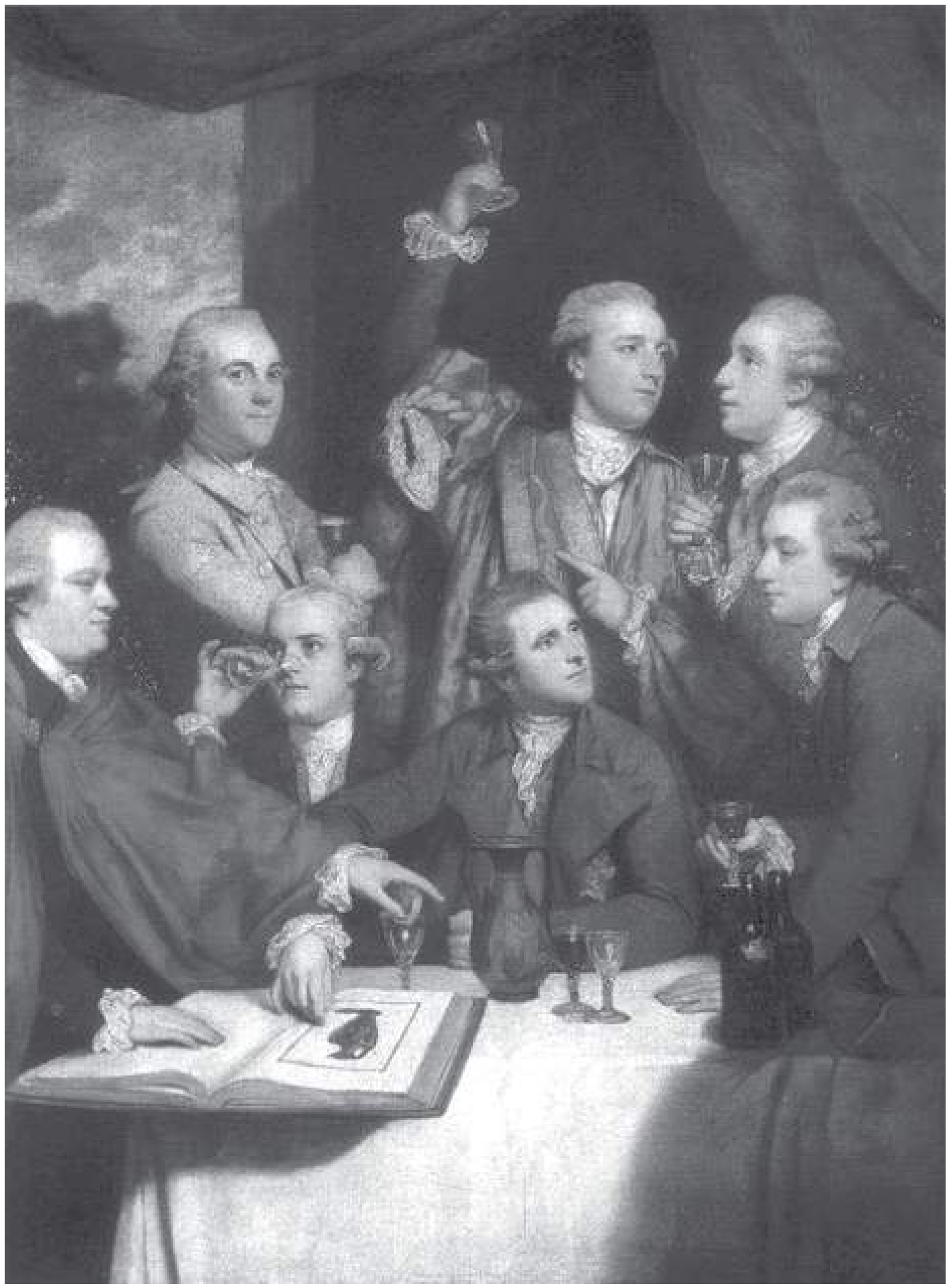
And so, in fact, does Wakefield, one of several club members who have traveled to Los Angeles to visit the exhibition "Grecian Taste and Roman Spirit: The Society of Dilettanti," a display of pictures, sculpture and objects on view at the Getty Villa through Oct. 27. According to those members, despite their distinguished professions and titles, fun remains the name of the game for the 274-year-old society, which got its name from the Italian dilettare, to take delight.

One of its favorite toasts is "seria ludo," translated from the Latin as "serious matters in a playful vein."

The Society of Dilettanti was founded as a private dining club by a group of young British gentlemen who were alumni of the Grand Tour in Italy, an educational rite of passage for the upper classes. The club was known for its enjoyment of good food and wine, battles of bawdy wit and a taste for erotic artifacts, many of which are displayed in their own naughty little gallery within the Getty exhibition.

But on the serious side, its early members are also credited with advancing the study of classical antiquity by funding scholarly expeditions, collecting art and publishing books on ancient architecture and sculpture.

Today, the society is limited to 60 members; no one new gets in until someone retires or dies. They meet five times a year at the private club Brooks's in London, founded in 1764, which also houses the Dilettanti's extensive art collection, some of which is on loan to the Getty.



The Dilettanti Society, a 197 x 142 cm oil on canvas by Sir Joshua Reynolds (1777-78).

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Officer Charles Sebag-Montefiore of the Society of Dilettanti, an exclusive men's club founded in 1734.

"It's an interesting occasion on which to, I suppose in modern parlance, to network," said Dilettanti member Nicholas Baring, a retired merchant banker and former chairman of the charitable Baring Foundation, after going through the Getty Villa galleries on his way back from a trip to Peru as part of an organization trying to bring back into use neglected agricultural terraces in the Andes.

Every few years, the dinner proceedings feature an introductory ceremony for inductees, including a procession involving the newbies as well as club members portraying the characters of the Imp, who leads the procession bearing silver candlesticks with lighted candles, and the Arch Master, who is dressed in lavish red robes.

"We all lift our glasses and say `William,' or whatever the man's name is," said Charles Sebag-Montefiore, 58, who has served as the society's joint secretary since 1997. "And he is expected to make a pretty speech of thanks. Some people get it just right. Some go on too long."

These days, although the membership probably skews a bit older than it did in the 18th century, the distinguished list includes the wealthy, the titled and the scholarly. The society won't reveal its membership roster, citing privacy issues, but the list includes Richard Dorment, art critic of the Daily Telegraph, who has reviewed the exhibition from an insider's perspective, and Nicholas Penny, director of the National Gallery in London. Prince Charles is an honorary member.

And, following in the long tradition of such artist-members as George Knapton, Joshua Reynolds and John Singer Sargent, British artist David Hockney, a longtime Los Angeles resident, now serves as the club's official portraitist—although, according to other members, Hockney has yet to paint a society portrait (the artist could not be reached for comment).

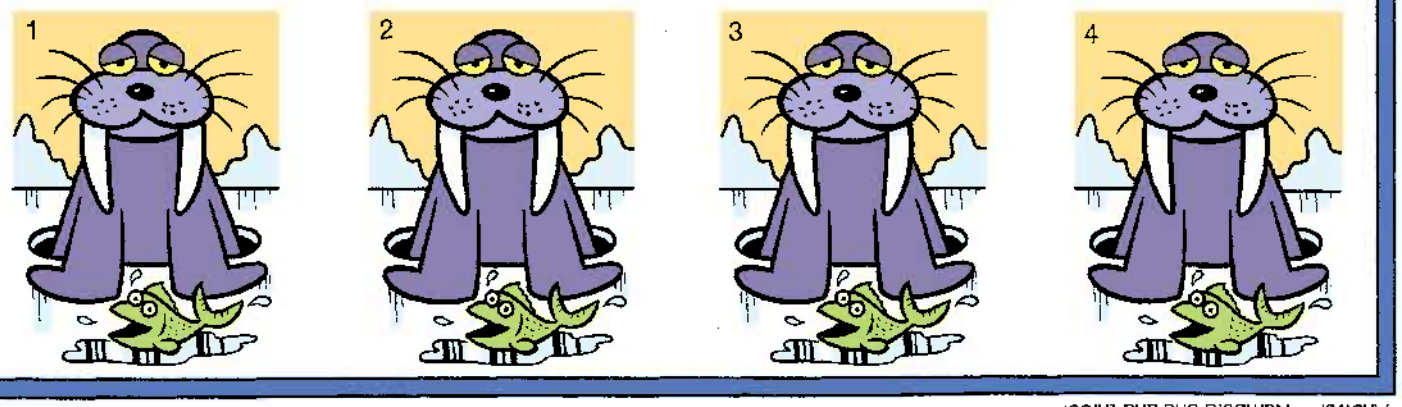
On the matter of selecting members, they must be nominated and seconded by two club members, but "there aren't requirements in the sense that nowhere is it written down," Sebag-Montefiore said while in town to give a lecture at the Getty. "We have quite a relaxed attitude toward rules. It is more characteristics that are looked at.

"I think it's essentially to have an interest in fine or applied arts. ... But you could have a very scholarly man, who knows all there is to know about the world of fine arts, but that would not be sufficient," he continued. "He would need to be a pleasant character and somebody people like to spend an evening sitting next to. Congeniality and wit—wit is much applauded. People aren't expected to wear their scholarship on their sleeves; it's discreet.

"On the whole, the right people seem to get elected."

Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

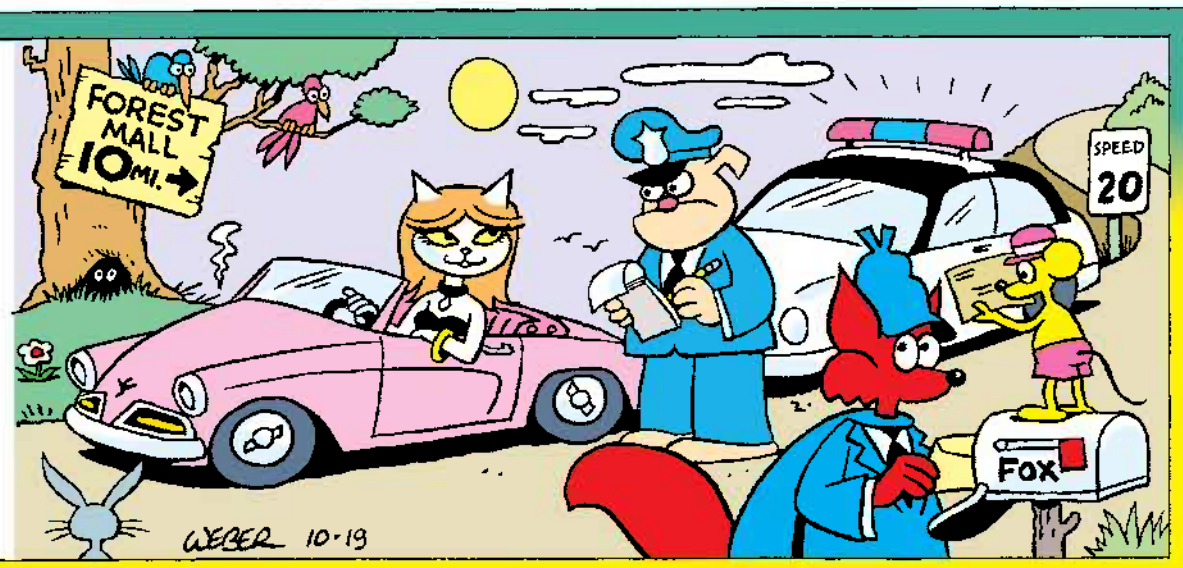
Which two scenes are exactly alike?



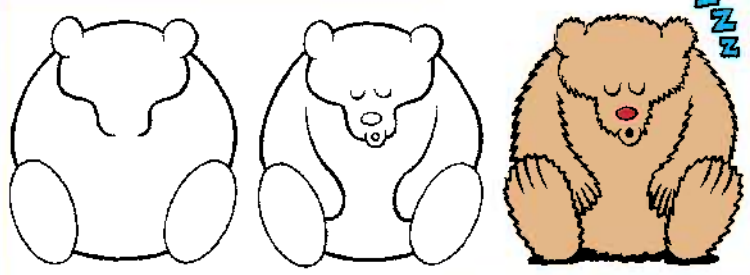
Answer -- Numbers one and three.

Chief Mutt has accused Cassandra Cat of speeding. Cassandra claims she hasn't exceeded the speed limit since leaving the Forest Mall 15 minutes ago. How does Slylock Fox knows Cassandra is fibbing?

Solution -- The only way Cassandra could have come ten miles in fifteen minutes is if she were driving an average speed of forty miles per hour.



HOW TO DRAW a sleepy bear



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Mary, age 12, from Baton Rouge, LA

Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

In which country was the first postage stamp created?
a) United States
b) England
c) Japan
d) Egypt

Answer -- b) The first postage stamp was created by Sir Rowland Hill in 1840.

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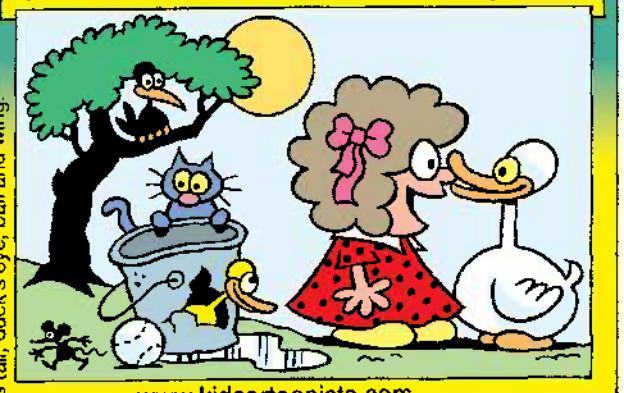
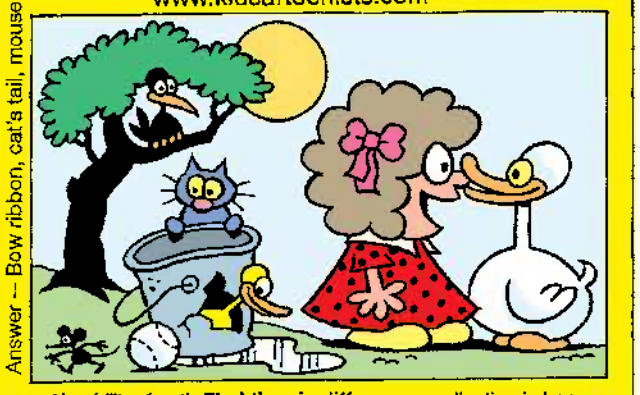
Find six differences between these panels.



www.kidcartoonists.com

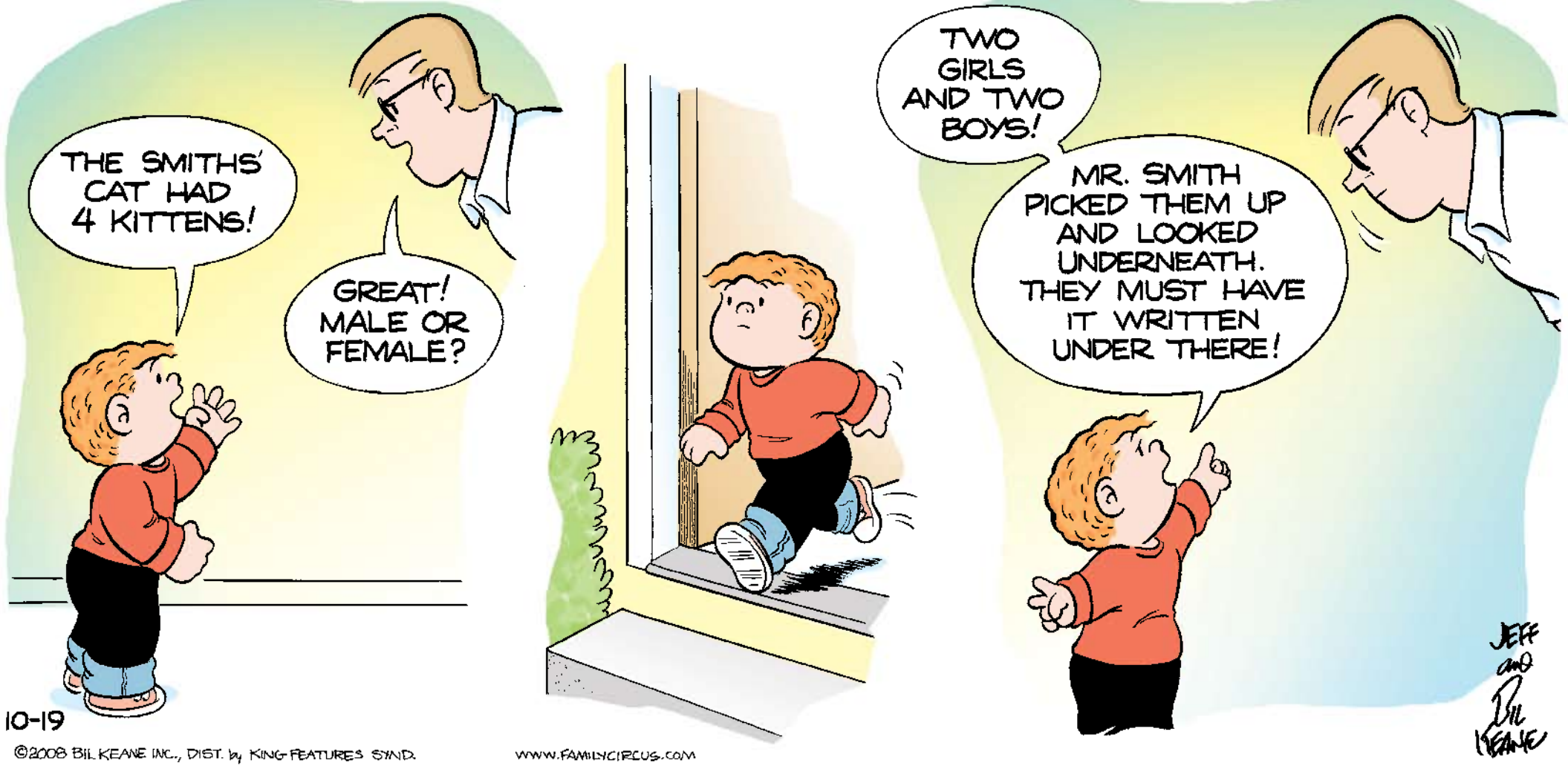


Answer -- Bow ribbon, cat's tail, mouse's tail, duck's eye, ball and wing.

New! The fourth **Find the six differences** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4,** P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane


THE SMITHS' CAT HAD 4 KITTENS!
GREAT! MALE OR FEMALE?
TWO GIRLS AND TWO BOYS!
MR. SMITH PICKED THEM UP AND LOOKED UNDERNEATH. THEY MUST HAVE IT WRITTEN UNDER THERE!
10-19
JEFF and BIL KEANE

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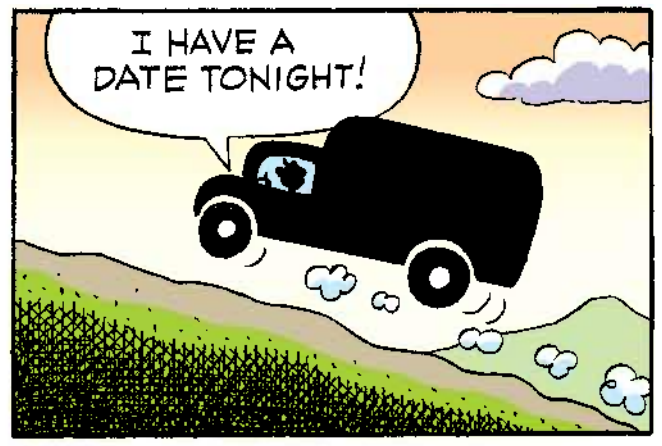
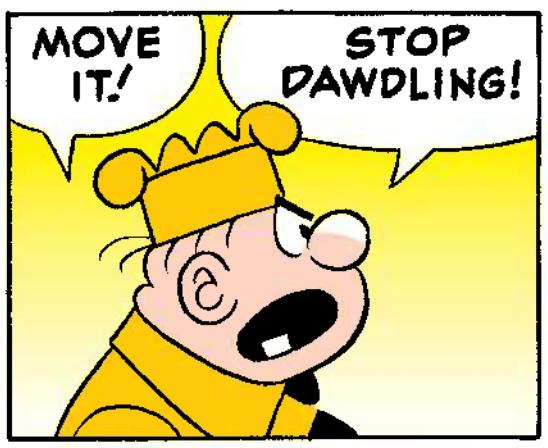
Mort Walker's

beetle bailey®





WWW.MORTWALKER.COM

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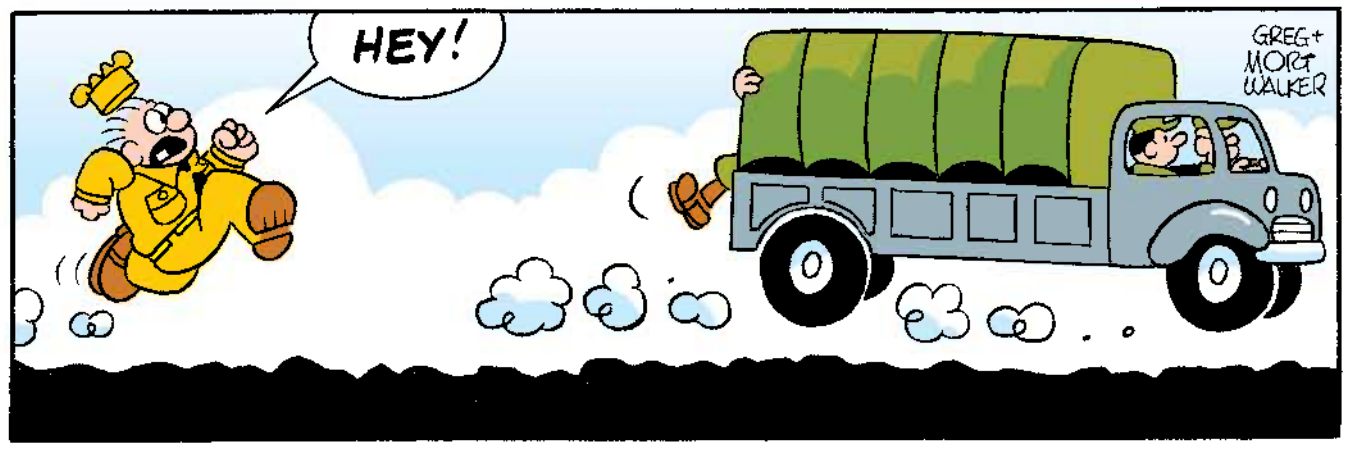
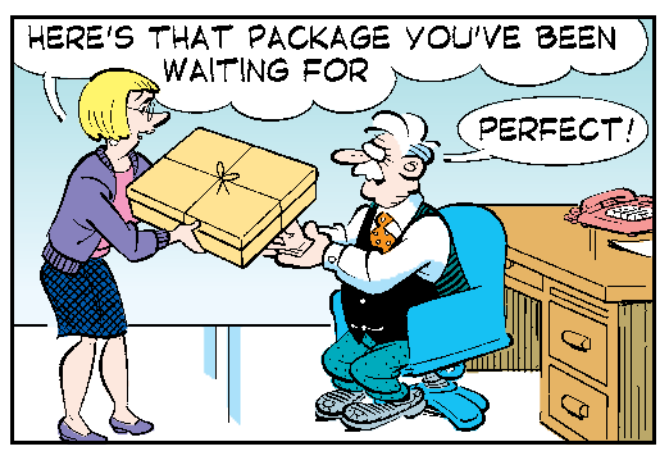
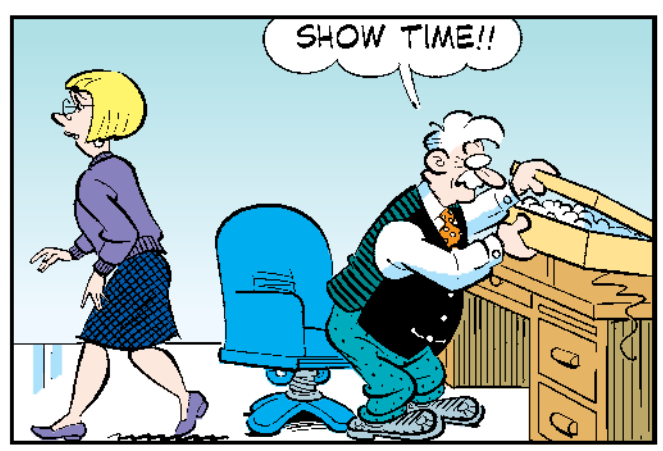
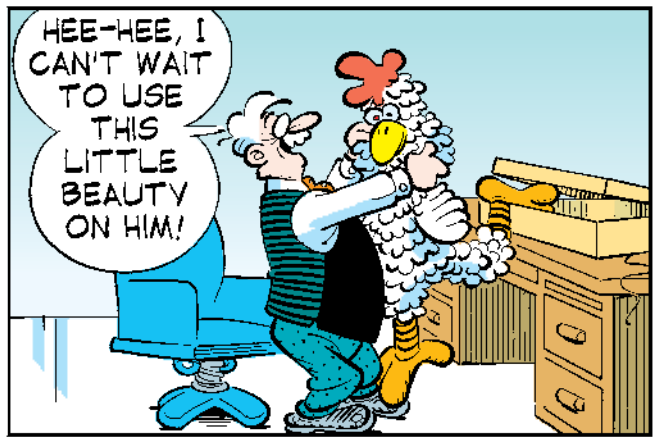


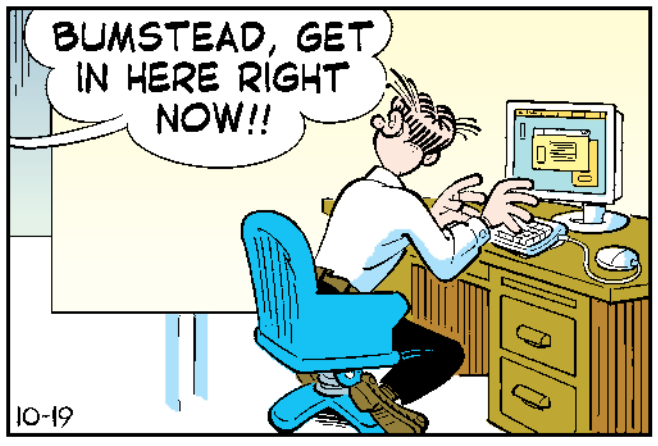
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

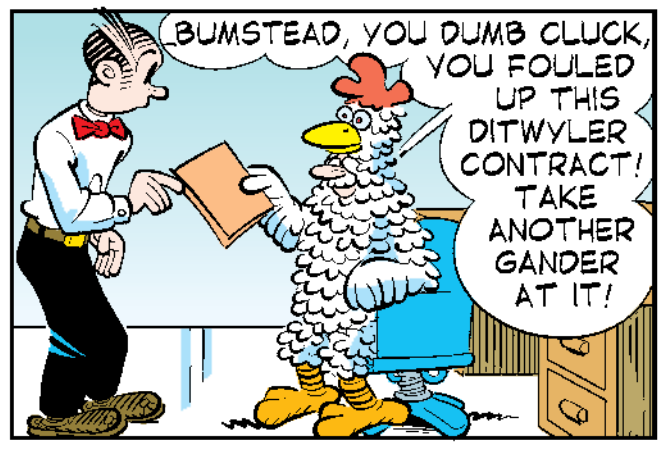


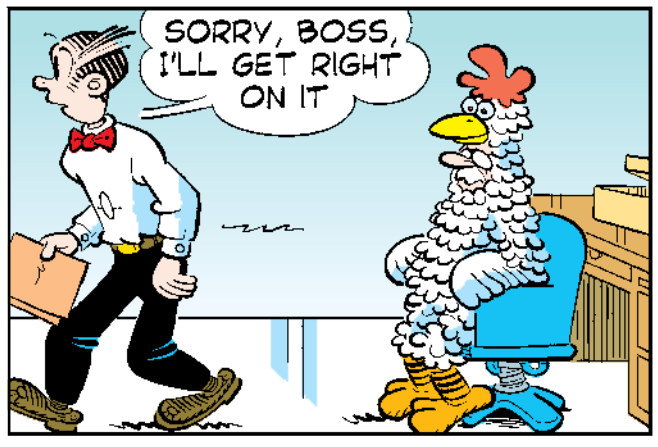


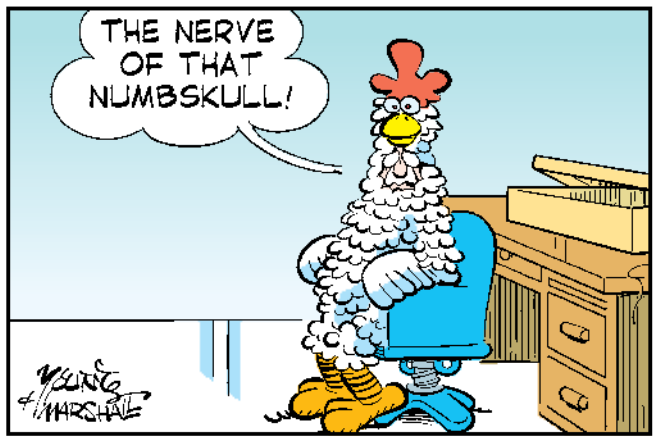




www.blondie.com







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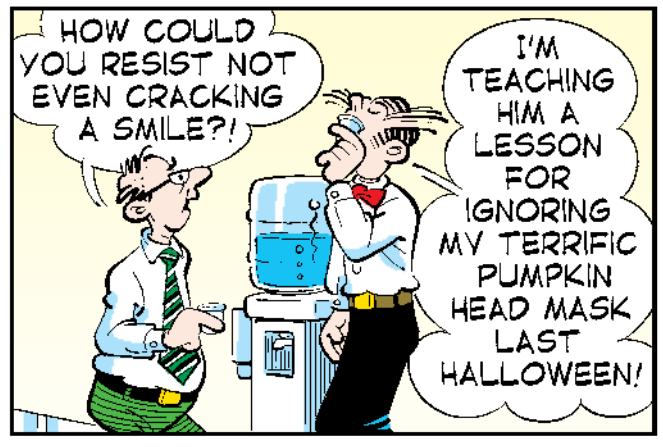
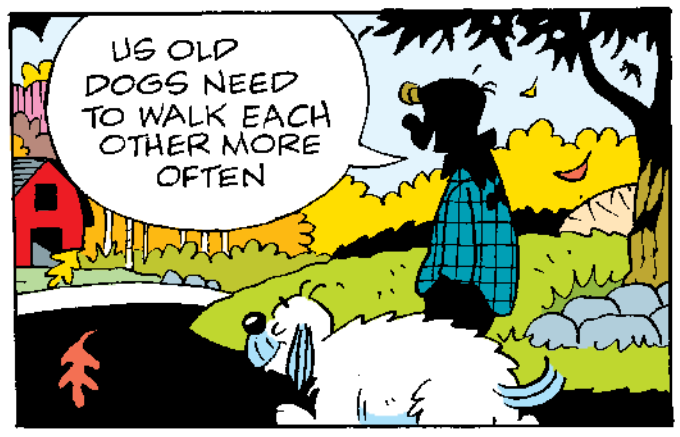
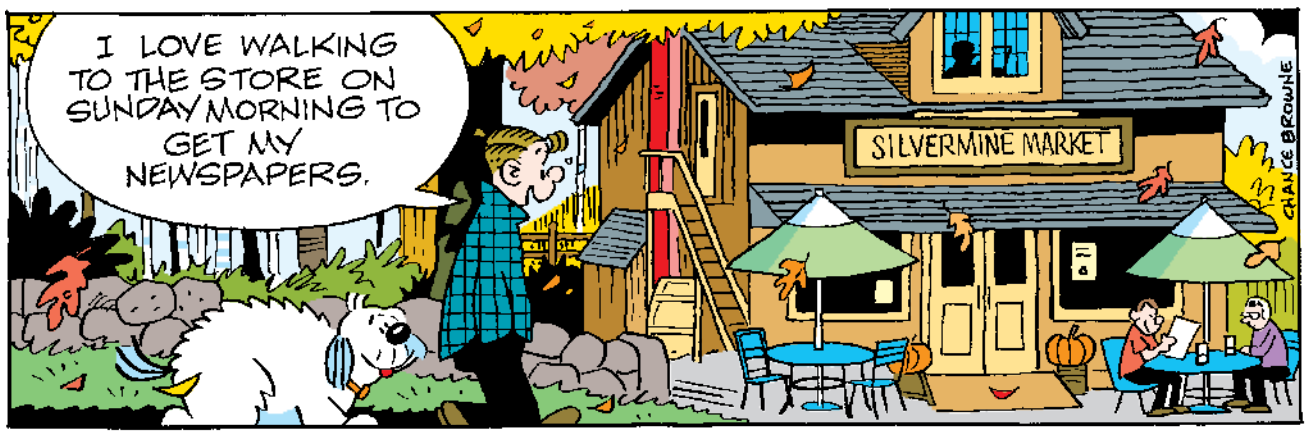
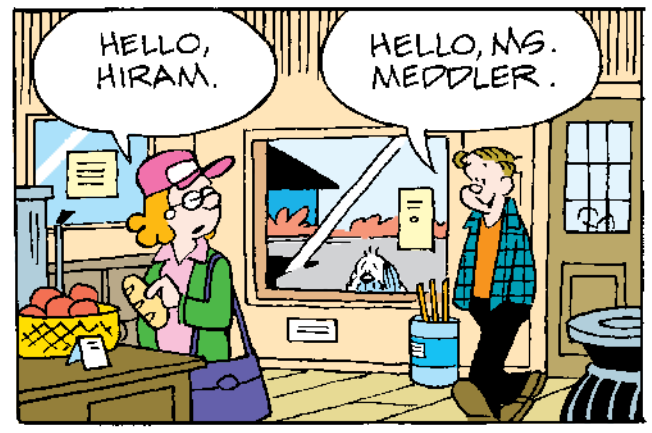

HOW COULD YOU RESIST NOT EVEN CRACKING A SMILE?!
I'M TEACHING HIM A LESSON FOR IGNORING MY TERRIFIC PUMPKIN HEAD MASK LAST HALLOWEEN!

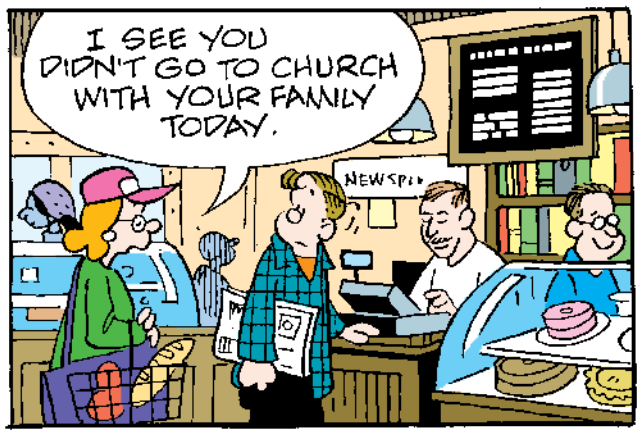
Hi and Lois

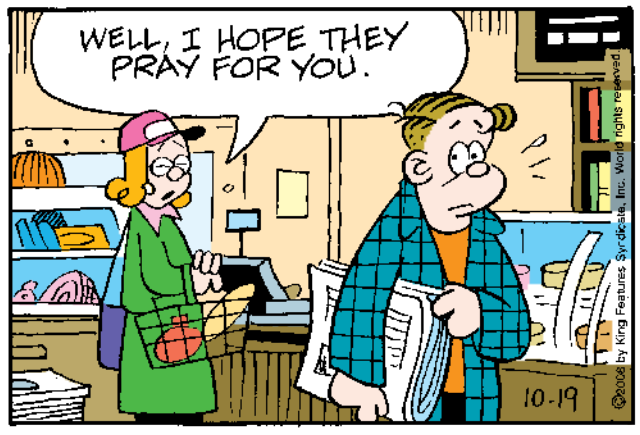
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

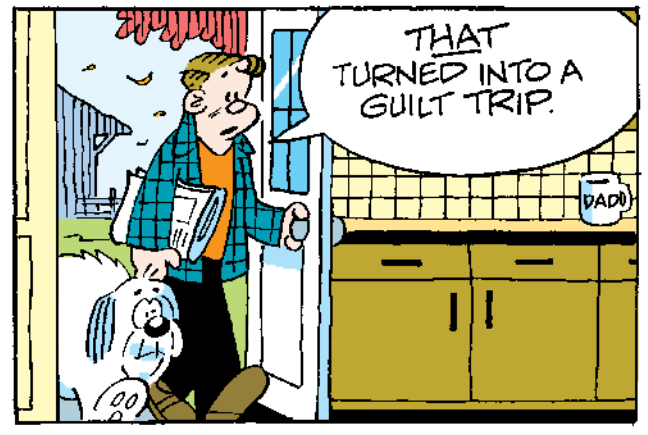








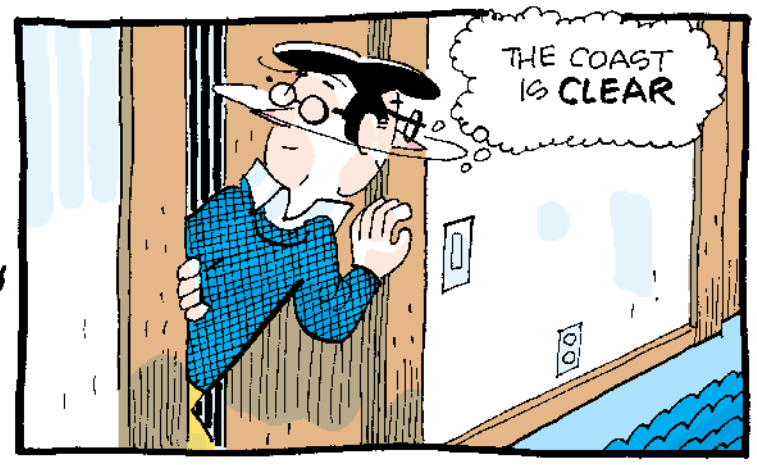


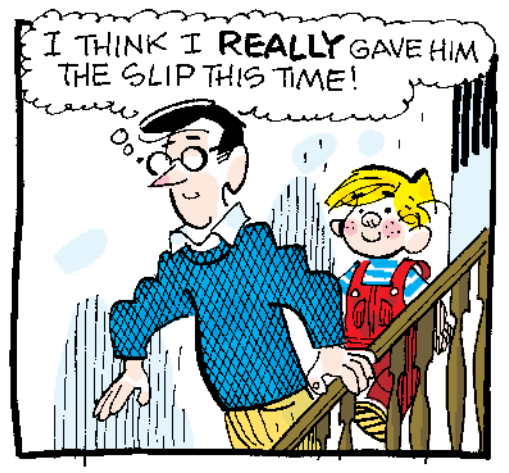


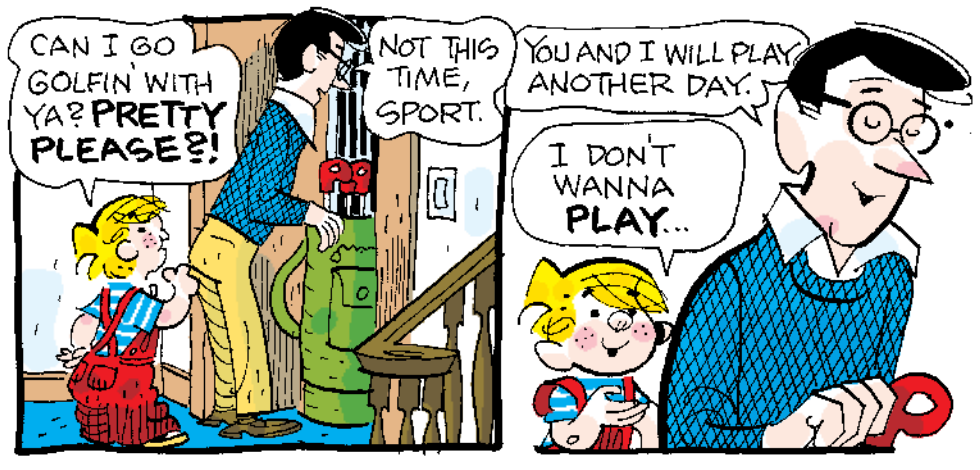
Hank Ketcham's

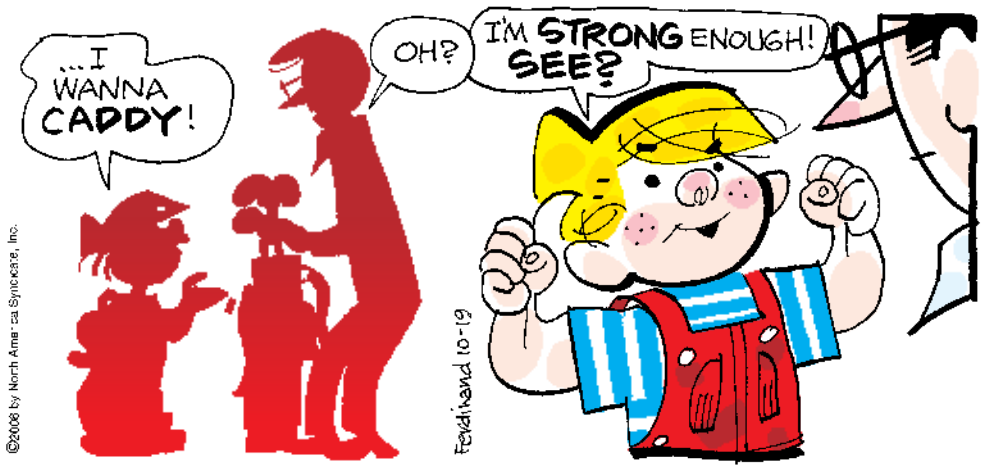
Dennis the Menace

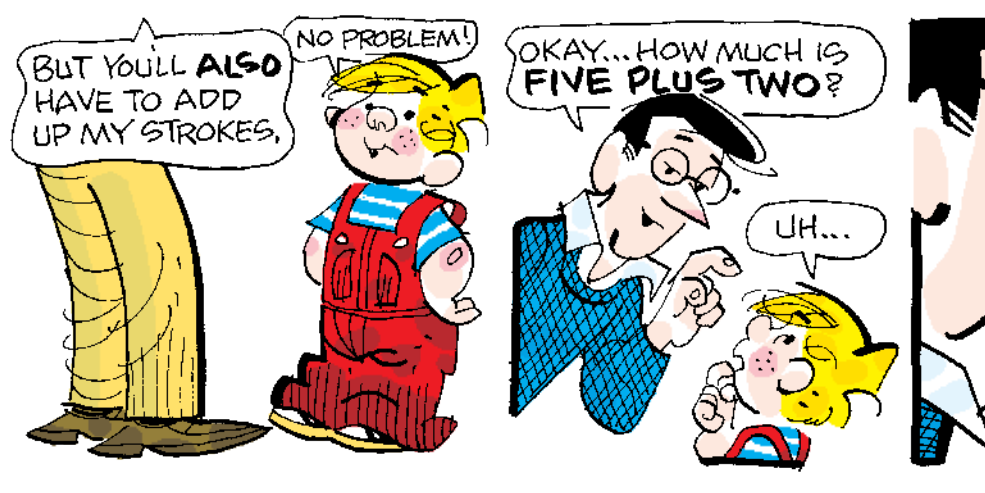
The New Math

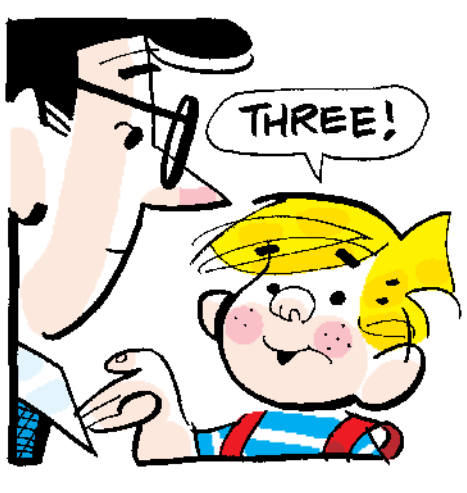


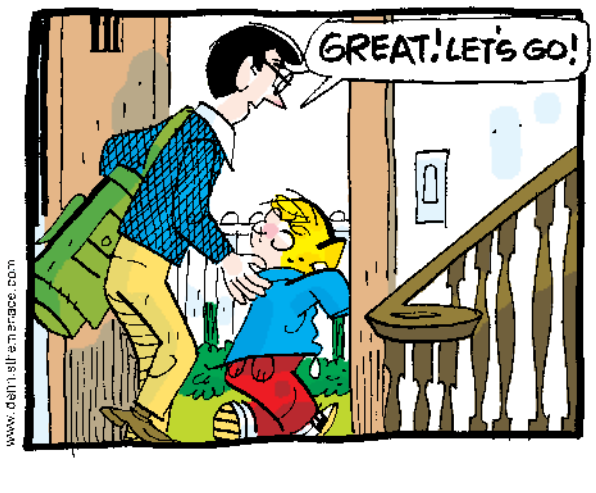












BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
I'M BACK, AND...
...SURPRISE!
FOR ME??
YOU WERE OUT SHOPPING, AND YOU THOUGHT OF ME?
;SNIFF! MMMM!
THANK YOU! I LOVE IT!
YOU'RE WELCOME!
HOW ABOUT THAT??
YEAH.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT HARDWARE STORES SOLD PERFUME.
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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A bid for you to step in and take over an incomplete project could prove to be an excellent learning experience that you can take with you when a new opportunity opens up.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a good time for socializing, both with family and with friends. Your aspects also favor developing new relationships, any or all of which might become especially meaningful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your success in handling a recent difficult situation prompts a request to handle another workplace problem. But this is one you should accept only if you get all of the relevant facts.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) New information about a past decision raises some unsettling questions from an old friend. Be prepared to explain your actions fully and, if necessary, to make adjustments.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is not a good time to share personal secrets, even with someone you've known for a long while. What you don't reveal now won't come back to haunt you later.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Pushing yourself to meet a project deadline is admirable. But be careful not to leave out important details in your rush to complete your work and send it off.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Watch that you don't take on more than you can handle when offering to help someone with a personal problem. There might be hidden factors you weren't told about.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) That major move you've been considering could come sooner than you expected. Make sure you'll be ready with the facts you need when decision time arrives.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Languishing relationships can benefit from a break in routine. Get out of the rut and do something new and maybe more than a little unpredictable this weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Although you don't think of yourself as a role model, your ability to make a tough decision at this time sets an example for others, who admire your courage.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You need to move any remaining obstacles out of your way before you can take on a new challenge. Seek advice from close, trusted friends and associates.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A career change appears increasingly likely to happen during the next several weeks. It's a good idea to start now to prepare, so you can be ready to make the move when the time comes.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a strong sense of obligation to justice, which inspires others to follow your example and do the right thing.

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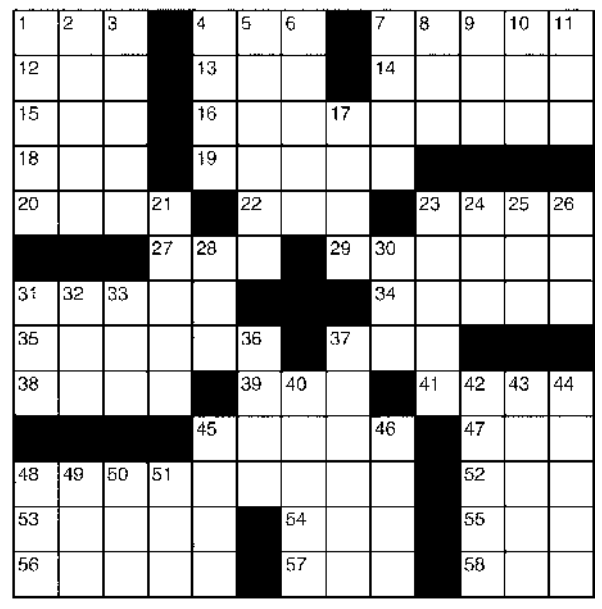
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Tit-for- —
4 English channel?
7 Binge
12 In bygone times
13 "— the ramparts ..."
14 Game venue
15 Play with Bubble Wrap
16 Chair protector
18 Savings acct.
19 Surf 'n' turf's turf
20 Heckle
22 Screw up
23 Rude look
27 Antiquated
29 Jenna Elfman role
31 Acid type
34 Enjoyed a lot
35 WWII fleet
37 Coloring agent
38 Frenchman
39 Type of cube
41 Picture of health?
45 Soaring
47 Farm female
48 Paperback book
52 Weir
53 Bird-related
54 Pitching stat
55 Infuriation
56 Hiawatha's craft
57 1/6 fl. oz. = 1 —
58 Lair

DOWN
1 Rhino's' cousin
2 Old-time marketplace
3 November stone
4 Employer
5 Walloped
6 Lachrymose one
7 Big bag
8 Country-club staffer
9 Gun the engine
10 Compass pt.
11 Listening device
17 Chum, out west
21 Of a region
23 House-paint ingredient
24 Prior to
25 Ostrich's kin
26 Eminem's genre
28 Realty parcel
30 Dinner for Dobbin
31 Summertime abbr.
32 Wall Streeter's deg.
33 Debtor's letters
36 Barn's neighbor
37 Postpones
40 Break a Commandment
42 Started over
43 Cognizant
44 Red Sea nation
45 Dermatology subject
46 Snare
48 Pouch
49 Eggs
50 Shark part
51 The way, in China

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top ten

John McCain's favorite songs

1. *Dancing Queen* ABBA
2. *Blue Bayou* Roy Orbison
3. *Take a Chance on Me* ABBA
4. *If We Make It Through December* Merle Haggard
5. *As Time Goes By* Dooley Wilson
6. *Good Vibrations* The Beach Boys
7. *What A Wonderful World* Louis Armstrong
8. *I've Got You Under My Skin* Frank Sinatra
9. *Sweet Caroline* Neil Diamond
10. *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes* The Platters

Source: *Blender* magazine

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

F	R	E	E	■	C	A	T	■	R	S	V	P
O	I	L	C	L	O	T	H	■	E	M	I	R
R	O	L	L	O	V	E	R	■	P	O	L	E
■	■	■	A	L	E	■	I	M	A	G	E	S
T	R	A	I	L	■	I	L	E	S	■	■	■
Y	O	U	R	■	R	O	L	L	T	O	P	■
E	A	T	■	S	E	W	E	D	■	P	U	B
■	R	O	L	L	B	A	R	■	M	U	T	E
■	■	■	L	I	O	N	■	H	A	S	T	E
E	R	R	A	T	A	■	P	A	S	■	■	■
R	O	A	M	■	R	O	L	L	C	A	L	L
G	A	G	A	■	D	U	O	L	O	G	U	E
O	D	E	S	■	S	T	Y	■	T	O	G	A

United States

Fallout from financial crisis hammers housing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation is on track to build fewer homes this year than at any time since the end of World War II, adding to the woes of an economy that analysts said Friday has almost certainly entered a recession.

While the economic outlook darkened even further with bad reports on layoffs and consumer confidence, it was one of the quietest days since the financial meltdown began a month ago. Wall Street's tumultuous week turned out to be its best in five years.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 127 points Friday but turned in the strong week because of two huge days of gains - a record 936-point jump on Monday and an increase of 401 points Thursday.

Friday was still marked by the huge swings that have become typical lately. At various points the Dow was up nearly 300 points and down nearly 250, and it finished with a triple-digit move for the 22nd time in 25 trading sessions.

A monthly survey by the National Association of Home Builders showed sentiment among home builders hit a record low in early October.

David Seiders, chief economist for the group, said builders are being hit by a double whammy from the financial turmoil: It's harder for them to get loans to pursue new houses, and more difficult to sell those they do build.

He forecast that builders will keep slashing production in coming months, with construction starts for new homes and apartments totaling just 936,000 this year, the lowest level since 1945.

"The builders are telling us that the financial crisis is really hurting because people justifiably have no idea where things are going," Seiders said.

Rep. Mahoney admits affairs

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—U.S. Rep. Tim Mahoney, embroiled in an adultery scandal and a tight race for re-election, admitted Friday to having at least two affairs but insisted he broke no laws and will not resign. The first-term Democrat conceded that one of the affairs began as he was running on a family values platform to replace Mark Foley, a Republican who resigned amid revelations that he sent lurid Internet messages to male pages who had worked on Capitol Hill as teenagers.

Mahoney, 52, apologized to his wife, his daughter and his constituents, even as he maintained he hadn't been hypocritical.

"I can understand why people would feel that way and for those people, all I can say is, 'I'm sorry I let you down,'" Mahoney said in his first set of interviews since news broke this week that he had a sexual relationship with Patricia Allen, 50, whom he met while campaigning in 2006.

Allen went to work for Mahoney's congressional office, then his campaign. Mahoney said she was fired for performance issues, not because of the affair.

Allen threatened to sue Mahoney for sexual harassment, and they reached a settlement to avoid a public airing. Her payout came from Mahoney's personal accounts, not from campaign funds or federal dollars, he said.

Allen has not returned repeated telephone calls.

Mahoney

Mahoney also acknowledged he had an affair with a high-ranking Martin County official in his district around the time he was lobbying the Federal Emergency Management Agency to give the county a $3.4 million hurricane cleanup reimbursement. The funds were awarded last year.

He insisted, however, that he did nothing more for Martin County than he did for others in his district.

Mahoney confessed to "multiple" other affairs, though he wouldn't say how many.

"You're asking me over a lifetime? I'm just saying I've been unfaithful and I'm sorry for that," he said.

The multimillionaire venture capitalist maintained a distinction between his behavior in office and Foley's, though he wouldn't specify.

"With respect to the former congressman, I think that his situation is different from my situation," Mahoney said. "I don't want anybody to misinterpret that as me saying that somehow I'm more proud or whatever. I'm not saying that at all."

Foley was cleared of criminal wrongdoing and left Congress to go into real estate.

The FBI has contacted Mahoney as part of an investigation into whether he hired Allen to keep her quiet about the affair and whether he showed any preferential treatment to Martin County in exchange for sex.

ELECTION UPDATE

McCain criticizes Obama's promise of tax cuts

MIAMI (AP—Republican John McCain told crowds in this battleground state Friday to "hold onto your wallet" because his Democratic presidential rival, Barack Obama, has talked of spreading the wealth around. McCain suggested voters could not rely on Obama's promise of tax cuts while returning once more to the story of Joe the Plumber, a regular part of McCain's speeches since the Arizona senator first mentioned the tax concerns of Ohio plumber Joe Wurzelbacher in Wednesday's presidential debate.

Florida was McCain's first stop on a two-day tour through states, including North Carolina and Virginia, where he has surrendered his lead in polls during the past month despite their history of supporting Republican presidential candidates.

"When politicians talk about taking your money and spreading it around, you'd better hold onto your wallet," McCain told a Miami rally crowd. "Sen. Obama claims that he want to give a tax break to the middle class, but not only did he vote for higher taxes for the middle class in the Senate, his plan gives away your tax dollars to those who don't pay taxes. That's not a tax cut; that's welfare."

Biden says robo calls 'scurrilous,' mocks Palin

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP)—Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden accused Republicans of employing "scurrilous" campaign tactics and urged supporters not to be distracted from the economic issues affecting their lives.

Biden pointed to automated phone calls sent to voters in key swing states by Republican John McCain's campaign. The calls attempt to link Democrat Barack Obama to former '60s radical William Ayers.

The calls assert Obama "worked closely with domestic terrorist" Ayers, though there is no evidence the Illinois senator and Ayers are close.

"The Republican campaign has stepped up its attacks," Biden told a crowd of 3,800 at an evening rally in the Las Vegas suburbs. "You may have heard about the scurrilous phone calls that are coming into homes - in Nevada and in New Mexico, where I was, and in Virginia, where I'm going - that question Barack Obama's character and my implication question his patriotism."

"They don't hurt Barack Obama. They don't hurt me. But they hurt the American people because they're an attempt to distract you from the issues that matter to your daily lives."

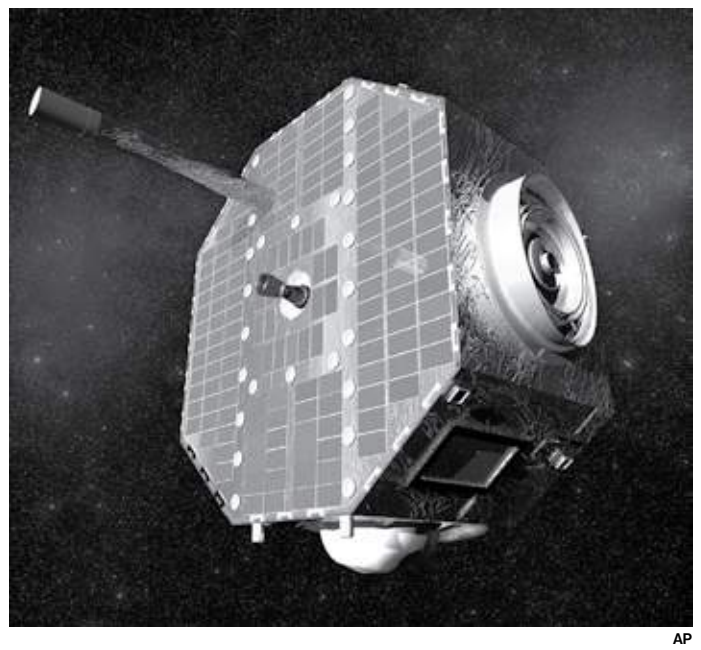
NASA to launch probe to map solar system's edge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A small NASA spacecraft embarks on a two-year mission this weekend to give scientists their first view of the happenings at the edge of the solar system. The Ibex probe, short for Interstellar Boundary Explorer, will study a chaotic region in space where the solar wind from the sun clashes with cold gases from interstellar space.

The solar wind, a stream of charged particles spewing from the sun at 1 million miles per hour, carves out a protective bubble around the solar system. This bubble known as the heliosphere shields against most dangerous cosmic radiation that would otherwise interfere with human spaceflight.

Scientists recently discovered that the solar wind pressure is at its weakest level in 50 years, although the exact reason remains a mystery. Ibex could help confirm whether the heliosphere is shrinking.

Observations from Ibex should help researchers in "unlocking the secrets of this important interaction between the sun and the galaxy," said David McComas of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. He is chief scientist for the $165 million mission.



AP

This artist rendering released by NASA shows the Interstellar Boundary Explorer or IBEX spacecraft in space.

ACROSS THE NATION

Grandfather could be link to missing Nevada boy

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Investigators were looking for the grandfather of a kidnapped 6-year-old boy Friday, saying they believe the abduction may be linked to the man's drug dealings with Mexican nationals. The boy, Cole Puffinburger, was abducted from a Las Vegas home Wednesday morning by three men posing as police officers. Police said they believe the men were Mexican drug dealers and that the kidnapping at gunpoint was a "message" to his grandfather, Clemens Fred Tinnemeyer. "Tinnemeyer has stolen a large sum of money, all proceeds from illegal drug activity," Las Vegas police Capt. Vincent Cannito said.

Officer's son arrested in fatal Detroit shooting

DETROIT (AP)—A teenager suspected in a shooting that killed a 16-year-old high school junior and seriously injured three others is the son of a Detroit police officer. Detroit police spokesman James Tate says the investigation has been given to the Michigan State Police to avoid the appearance of impropriety. Two other teens have also been arrested in Thursday's shooting near Detroit's Henry Ford High School. Tate declined to name the suspects or say which teen was the shooter.

Suspect dead, 4 hurt in Ga. law office explosion

DALTON, Ga. (AP)—A bitter family dispute over property in north Georgia apparently erupted Friday when a 78-year-old man threw an explosive into a law firm that represented his son, causing a blast that killed the father and injured four people in the office. The explosion blew out windows of the two-story, colonial-style house where attorneys worked, and some in the small blue-collar town of 30,000 felt vibrations from more than a block away. Authorities identified the bomber as Lloyd Cantrell, a man known around town for wearing bib overalls and carrying a small Chihuahua. Over the years, Cantrell amassed several parcels of land in the area, and gave some of the property to his son.

Mich. gets custody of abandoned teen, siblings

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—The state of Michigan was granted temporary custody Friday of four suburban Detroit siblings, including a 13-year-old abandoned in Nebraska by his mother under that state's unique safe haven law. An Oakland County juvenile court referee scolded Teri Martin for dropping off her adopted son at an Omaha hospital with $10 earlier this week. The teen could be back in Michigan by Monday. Martin, 38, and her 39-year-old husband, Terrence, didn't speak about the case during the hearing and declined to comment outside court.

Evangelist Alamo arraigned on child-sex charges

TEXARKANA, Ark. (AP)—Evangelist Tony Alamo told a judge on Friday that he understood that he could get life in prison if convicted of taking a minor across state lines for sex, and he'll argue next week that he should be released from custody pending trial. Alamo's appearance in federal court was his first since shortly after his Sept. 25 arrest in Arizona. Five days before the arrest, his compound in Fouke was raided and six girls were taken into protective custody. Alamo, 74, has said he believes girls should be allowed to marry when they reach puberty. In interviews with The Associated Press between the time of the raid and his arrest, Alamo reaffirmed that assertion but denied he conducted any such marriages and said no child abuse occurred at his compounds.

Asia

Pakistan: 60 militants killed

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Troops backed by artillery and helicopter gunships pounded militant positions in northwest Pakistan, killing at least 60 fighters and injuring many others, the military said Saturday.

The assault happened Friday evening in the Swat valley, shortly after troops found one of two Chinese engineers who had been held hostage by Taliban militants, an army statement said. It said the second Chinese engineer was still in the custody of militants and efforts were under way to rescue him.

"At least 60 Taliban died and many others were wounded during yesterday's operation around the Matta town. This is the same area from where one Chinese engineer was recovered," the statement said.

It was not immediately possible to independently confirm the casualties. Reporters cannot visit the area due to poor security and government restrictions. No Taliban spokesman was available for comment. The statement did not mention any losses among government forces.

Swat was once a popular tourist destination but the region has become a battle ground since last year when Pakistan sent troops to confront Mullah Fazlullah, a hardline cleric who had launched a violent campaign to enforce Taliban-style Islamic law.

Although the government has regained control in parts of Swat, Fazlullah's men—allegedly reinforced by other militant groups including al-Qaida affiliates—are still resisting.

Fighting is also raging in the nearby region of Bajur, a militant stronghold overlooking the border with Afghanistan.

The two Chinese telecommunications engineers disappeared in the Dir region of northwestern Pakistan on Aug. 29, and later a spokesman for Taliban militants in Swat had claimed that they were holding the pair.

Beijing has urged Pakistan to rescue the hostages, who reportedly worked for Zhongxing Telecommunication Equipment and were servicing equipment installed in the area.

Forbes: SM mogul Henry Sy is wealthiest Filipino with $3.1B

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' biggest mall operator and his family have increased their wealth by US$1.4 billion despite the global financial turmoil, making them the wealthiest Filipinos this year, Forbes Asia magazine said Thursday.

Forbes said 83-year-old Henry Sy and his family are worth US$3.1 billion. They rose from No. 2 position last year on the back of their holding company SM Investments Corp., which has interests in a dozen companies, including the country's second largest bank, Banco de Oro Unibank.

Tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan and his family, who own national carrier Philippine Airlines and have interests in beer brewing and mining, came in second with a net worth of US$1.5 billion.

Jaime Zobel de Ayala and his family, last year's richest, dropped to third place after losing US$800 million, Forbes said. The stock of their conglomerate Ayala Corp. has been down 46 percent since last year, partly due to the economic slowdown and waning profits in banking and electronics, the magazine said.

Sy

Tan

Zobel de Ayala

Villar

Forbes said the global financial turmoil has pared down the collective wealth of the Philippines' 40 richest by 18 percent to US$14 billion from US$17 billion in 2007.

It said 25 Filipino tycoons, including some in real estate and banking, "are poorer" this year because the Philippine stock exchange had fallen 35 percent in the last 12 months.

The country's riches politician, Senate President Manuel Villar, who is the largest shareholder in high-end homebuilder Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., fell outside the top 10 list from No. 5 to No. 11 after his net worth plunged 55 percent to US$425 million.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Premier: China's government shares responsibility

BEIJING (AP)—China's Premier Wen Jiabao says the government was partly responsible for the tainted milk scandal that has sickened tens of thousands of children and shaken consumer confidence in the country's food exports. In an interview published in this week's Science Magazine, Wen said the government feels "great sorrow" about the crisis, which erupted last month and has been blamed on the deaths of four babies. "We feel that although problems occurred at the company, the government also has a responsibility," Wen said in the Sept. 20 interview. A Chinese version of the interview in the People's Daily newspaper, the ruling Communist Party's mouthpiece, also quoted Wen as saying that the government had especially been lax in "supervision and management."

Thai premier says he won't resign

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat refused to step down Friday, a day after the army's commander suggested he resign over deadly force employed by police to suppress an anti-government protest last week. Gen. Anupong Paochinda said a television interview Thursday if he were in the prime minister's place he would step aside to take responsibility for violence on Oct. 7 that left one woman dead and more than 400 other people injured. Thousands of anti-government protesters marched through Bangkok's business district early Friday, holding up posters with photos of Somchai and the police chief and calling them murders.

Jade and gem sale earns Myanmar $175 million

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar has earned more than $175 million (130 million euros) from its latest government-sponsored sale of gems, despite a U.S. ban on their import, an official said Friday. Most of the revenue from the 13-day auction that ended Thursday was earned from the sales of jade, which fetched more than $172 million (128 million euros). Gemstones and pearls were the other items offered. An organizer of the gems emporium, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to release information, said 2,648 gem merchants participated from nearly a dozen countries, including China, Thailand, Japan and Canada. In July, President Bush signed legislation banning the import of gems from Myanmar, which already was the voluntary policy of retailers like Tiffany's and Bulgari.

World

AP

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, right, speaks to French President Nicolas Sarkozy, left, during the financial crisis summit gathering Eurogroup heads of state and government at the Elysee Palace in Paris Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008.

European leaders pushing for a new economic order

By JOHN LEICESTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PARIS (AP)—The idea is ambitious: World leaders joined by aides to the new U.S. president-elect would gather before the year's end in New York and attempt to forge a new vision for the global economy.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has teamed up with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to press for such a summit, and the French leader travels to Camp David this weekend to lobby President Bush to sign on.

Brown, buoyed by the praise he won for engineering a British bank bailout that inspired U.S. and European rescues, is proposing "radical changes" to the global capitalist system, including a cross-border mechanism to monitor the world's 30 biggest financial institutions. Sarkozy has floated the idea of reforming rating agencies and even exploring the future of currency systems.

Details remain vague and the obstacles are many.

But the political pendulum, at least in Europe, is swinging decisively in the direction of tighter control and supervision, away from the laissez-faire economics that fueled a colossal global boom and appear to have enabled an equally dramatic bust.

Austria, Turkey win Security Council election

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Japan handily defeated Iran for a non-permanent seat on the U.N. security council and Austria and Turkey edged out Iceland in secret ballot voting Friday.

Iran—under U.N. sanctions for its nuclear program—received only 32 votes from the U.N. members compared to 158 for Japan for the Asian seat.

Austria and Turkey beat Iceland in the battle for two non-permanent European seats on the 15-member council in voting at a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

The Security Council is the powerhouse of the U.N. with the ability to impose sanctions and dispatch peacekeepers.

The other two seats went to Mexico, which will represent Latin America, and Uganda, which will represent Africa; both ran unopposed.

General Assembly President Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann said after the balloting that Austria received 133 votes, Turkey 151 votes, Uganda 181 votes and Mexico 185. Iceland, which had been considered by many to be a strong candidate until the recent economic crisis, received only 87 votes.

WORLD BRIEFS

Zimbabwe opposition says power-sharing talks fail

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's opposition leader said Friday that four days of "intense" negotiations have failed to break a deadlock in power-sharing talks and called for intervention by regional and African leaders. Morgan Tsvangirai addressed reporters after talks with President Robert Mugabe ended late Friday evening without resolving the impasse that has left Zimbabwe rudderless. Former South African President Thabo Mbeki has been mediating talks since Tuesday. Mbeki brokered a Sept. 15 deal between Mugabe and Tsvangirai to form a unity government. The opposition narrowly won March parliamentary elections. But the formation of the new government has been delayed over disagreements on the allocation of Cabinet posts. The opposition has accused Mugabe of trying to hold onto too many key posts.

Iraq's PM slams top US soldier over Iran comments

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's prime minister said in remarks aired Friday that the top U.S. commander in Iraq "risked his position" by alleging Iran was trying to bribe lawmakers to vote against the proposed security agreement with the United States. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki briefed top political leaders Friday about the draft agreement, which includes a timeline for U.S. withdrawal from Iraq by the end of 2011 and a compromise giving Iraq authority to try U.S. contractors and soldiers for major crimes committed off-duty and off-base. A government statement said the same group—including President Jalal Talabani, the two vice presidents and leaders of parliament—would meet again in a few days, suggesting some people raised objections. One lawmaker who attended the meeting said there were discussions for and against the draft and that two Shiite parties boycotted the session. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions were confidential.

Focus

A Chinese family deals with tainted milk scandal

By AUDRA ANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

At the height of the corn harvest in the long muggy days of August, 10-month-old Zhang Peng began refusing to drink his milk, crying fitfully at night as he struggled to sleep. Soon his twin sister Zhang Xue fell ill, too.

Several times, their parents brought the sick babies, who had trouble urinating, to the nearest hospital 20 miles from their farming village. Doctors could not diagnose the problem but gave the children herbal powder and injections.

Then last month, Chinese media revealed that infant formula contaminated with melamine, an industrial chemical used to make fertilizer and plastics, was sickening babies nationwide.

The news shocked the Zhang family and so began a monthlong ordeal that would see them shuttling back and forth between their home in Shandong province and a hospital in Beijing, 450 miles away.

"We had no idea what was wrong. We were so frightened and worried," the children's mother, Liao Shanfang, told The Associated Press this week from the family's simple house in this village in eastern China's corn belt.

"Even when I saw the news that milk powder had been poisoned, I could not believe it. We never imagined that would be the problem."

'We had no idea what was wrong. We were so frightened and worried. Even when I saw the news that milk powder had been poisoned, I could not believe it. We never imagined that would be the problem.'

■ ■ ■ ■

Amid China's worst food-safety crisis in years, thousands of parents have jammed into hospital emergency rooms. More than 50,000 children have been treated for kidney ailments and nearly 6,000 remain hospitalized, the Health Ministry said this week. Four deaths have been linked to the toxic milk.

Experts say the long-term effects of prolonged exposure to high levels of melamine have not been studied in humans, but infants and young children are most vulnerable.

"They start off with the simplest immune system, the nervous system still developing," said Peter Dingle, a toxicity expert at Murdoch University in Australia. "They don't have the biochemistry in their body to break down the chemical and eliminate it the way adults do."

AP

Liao Shanfang, left, mother of twins Zhang Peng and Zhang Xue, looks at the children as their father, Zhang Rongwei, sits in their home in Yongan, eastern China's Shandong province, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008.

After the tainted milk scandal broke in mid-September, Liao and her husband Zhang Rongwei took their twins yet again to their local hospital in Linyi.

This time, Zhang Peng, the boy, was admitted for a five-day stay but he only got worse. He began vomiting and when he could urinate, it came out in a thin, blood-tinged stream. His sister's symptoms weren't as serious; she had sporadic fevers.

From birth, both babies had been given breast milk and formula. The Zhangs first used a cheaper brand that gave the children diarrhea, then switched to one made by Sanlu Group Co., although it cost almost twice as much.

■ ■ ■ ■

Sanlu was the first company implicated in the scandal, going public with word of contamination on Sept. 11, and the Chinese government later confirmed it was widespread. Unscrupulous suppliers are suspected of adding melamine to watered-down milk to make it appear protein-rich in quality tests.

"These people working at the milk powder companies have no conscience and only care about making money," Liao said angrily. "I'm just disappointed because the government should have done more to protect its citizens."

Plump and round-headed, the Zhang twins had been healthy and affectionate at first. Zhang Xue loved to gnaw on her fingers and smile, showing off her baby teeth. Zhang Peng was more serious but always curious. By September, both babies were listless.

Unable to do more to help them, doctors in Linyi told the Zhangs to seek treatment in Beijing.

The couple hastily arranged for a car ride - at a cost of 300 yuan, about $45, a small fortune—to the Children's Hospital in the capital, where they arrived Sept. 23.

Hours later, Zhang Peng was diagnosed with two large kidney stones that needed surgery. His sister had a single stone the size of a grain of rice—not serious enough to warrant a hospital stay.

"My heart stopped when I read the test results for Zhang Peng," Liao said.

With no choice but to split their lives—and their children—the couple brought their daughter home to her paternal grandmother. Then they returned to Beijing where they spent the next three weeks, sleeping at a relative's home an hour-long bus ride from the hospital.

■ ■ ■ ■

While hospital treatment was free under a central government mandate, the trip to Beijing was not without significant cost. The burden of harvesting the family's corn fell to Zhang's parents. Travel between their village and Beijing took 10 hours each way.

In a good year, the couple's income is about $1,300. Liao estimated that while they were in Beijing, the family spent about $1,000 and with Zhang unable to work, their losses mounted further.

Ever since the twins were born, the couple, who also have an 11-year-old daughter, have worried how they would support their larger-than-expected family. As rural Chinese, they were permitted by China's strict one-child policy to try for a second child. They ended up with twins.

To make ends meet, the couple worked their fields, while Zhang, a slight 31-year-old, also took odd jobs—repairing floorboards, construction work, ferrying passengers in his motorcycle cab. Child care was split with Zhang's parents, who took in the baby boy when he was 7 months old. Liao, 32, cared for the baby girl and their older daughter.

Despite the weeks of heartache, the twins, who turn 1 this month, are now on the road to recovery. Zhang Peng was discharged from the hospital Monday; his sister was treated with a remedy prescribed by a traditional Chinese medicine doctor.

The toddlers still drink milk but only brands unaffected by the scandal—Red Star, made in China's northeast, and the U.S.-based Wyeth Nutrition. They cost nearly five times what Sanlu milk cost.

"When we bought them, we were told these had passed quality tests," Liao said as her husband measured out milk powder. "We still feed them milk because without milk, she would be crying."

Zhang Xue hungrily gulped a bottle before settling down to play with a ball on the concrete floor of the family's home, where bright yellow summer corn lay drying in the front yard.

Her brother, brought over from his grandparent's house for a visit, leaned toward her. They smiled as their foreheads touched.

Life & Style

Titanic survivor sells mementos to pay for care

Millvina Dean was only 2 months old when she was wrapped in a sack and lowered into a lifeboat from the doomed Titanic. Now 96, the last survivor of the tragic sinking is selling mementos of the disaster to help pay her nursing home fees.

Rescued from the bitterly cold Atlantic on that April 1912 night, Dean, her 2-year-old brother and her mother were taken to New York with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Before returning home to England, they were given a small wicker suitcase of donated clothing, a gift from New Yorkers to help them rebuild their lives.

Now, Dean is selling the suitcase and other Titanic mementos to help pay her nursing home fees. They are expected to go for $5,200 at an auction of Titanic memorabilia Saturday in Devizes in western England.

This is a Friday, April 17, 1998 file photo of Millvina Dean, 86, a living Titanic survivor, as she looks up and smiles as she signs a Titanic movie poster for an enthusiast at the Titanic Historical Society's convention in Springfield, Mass. As a 2-month-old baby, Millvina Dean was wrapped in a sack and lowered into a lifeboat from the deck of the sinking RMS Titanic.

AP

Among the items are rare prints of the Titanic and letters from the Titanic Relief Fund offering her mother one pound, seven shillings and sixpence a week in compensation.

But the key item in the sale is the suitcase, said auctioneer Andrew Aldridge. "They would have carried their little world in this suitcase," he said Thursday.

Dean has lived at Woodlands Ridge, a private nursing home in the southern city of Southampton—Titanic's home port—since she broke her hip two years ago

"I am not able to live in my home anymore," Dean was quoted as telling the Southern Daily Echo newspaper. "I am selling it all now because I have to pay these nursing home fees and am selling anything that I think might fetch some money."

A spokeswoman for Woodlands Ridge said Dean was too tired Thursday to speak to The Associated Press.

She said rooms at the nursing home cost between $1,000 and $1,550 a week, depending on the level of care the resident needs, but declined to discuss Dean's situation, saying it was a private matter.

Although Britain has a free health care system, private providers offer more comprehensive services for a fee. In the case of nursing homes, state-run facilities are available and cost much less than private ones. But they are more spartan and offer fewer amenities, such as shared rooms and no private TVs.

Local authorities often pay a portion of the costs of private nursing home care based on an individual's assets; anyone with more than $39,000 in assets has to pay their own fees.

In 1912, baby Elizabeth Gladys "Millvina" Dean and her family were steerage passengers emigrating to Kansas City, Mo., aboard the Titanic.

Four days out of port, on the night of April 14, 1912, it hit an iceberg and sank. Billed as "practically unsinkable" by the publicity magazines of the period, the Titanic did not have enough lifeboats for all 2,200 passengers and crew.

Dean, her mother Georgetta and brother Bertram Jr. were among 706 people - mostly women and children—who were rescued by the steamship Carpathia and survived. Her father, Bertram Dean, was among more than 1,500 who died.

Dean did not know she had been aboard the Titanic until she was 8 years old, when her mother, who was about to remarry, told her about her father's death.

She has no memories of the sinking and said she preferred it that way.

"I wouldn't want to remember, really," she told The Associated Press in a 1997 interview.

Dean said she had seen the 1958 film, "A Night to Remember," with other survivors, but found it so upsetting that she declined to watch any other movies about the disaster, including the 1997 blockbuster "Titanic," starring Leonardo Di Caprio and Kate Winslet.

Dean began to take part in Titanic-related activities in the 1980s, and was active well into her 90s. She visited Belfast, Northern Ireland, to see where the ship was built, attended Titanic conventions around the world—where she was mobbed by autograph-seekers—and participated in radio and television documentaries about the sinking.

The last American survivor of the disaster, Lillian Asplund, died in 2006 at the age of 99. Another British survivor, Barbara Joyce West Dainton, died last November at 96.

Aldridge said the "massive interest" in Titanic memorabilia shows no signs of abating. Last year, a collection of items belonging to Asplund sold for more than $175,000.

"It's the people, the human angle," Aldridge said. "You had over 2,200 men, women and children on that ship, from John Jacob Astor, the richest person in the world at the time, to a poor Scandinavian family emigrating to the States to start a new life. There were 2,200 stories." ***(AP)***

A cure for diabetes?

By KATHLEEN HOM

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Analyzing what Chris Wright calls "the nitty-gritty of how cells form" provides clues to many mysteries.

Among them, how to cure diabetes, says Wright, director of Vanderbilt University's Program in Developmental Biology. Wright and his lab study cells—developing pancreatic tissue, stained in various colors to distinguish endocrine tissue from epithelial ducts and pancreatic cells with a specific gene called PTF1A.

Wright and his lab have discovered that PTF1A is crucial to the formation of the pancreas, including the beta cells that produce the insulin that diabetics lack. "Take away PTF1A, and cells can no longer form the pancreas .... They change their job," Wright says.

Using this knowledge, Wright plans to make beta cells that can replace a diabetic's dysfunctional or destroyed ones. Wright's work is in mice for now, but he believes that it could be applied to humans within the next five years.

THREE WISE GUYS

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, advice on life and other stuff from the male perspective, perpetrated by Post staffers, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak. It may not be professional advice, but their responses to reader questions serve up a deft handling of any conceivable topic.

Seat belts on buses, insect collisions, gangster bosses

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE, DAN ZAK

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dear Wise Guys: Occasionally I ride shuttle buses, which either don't have seat belts or have seat belts that no self-respecting person would fasten. Consequently, the question arises: Should the shuttle bus fall off a cliff, would it be better to use my hands to protect my head as I tumble around or, alternately, use my hands to hang on to some fixed part of the bus in hopes of limiting my buffeting? How should I plan?—Carrie

Joe: Is this question metaphorical? Are you sure you're not asking us about the economy?

Dan: Either way, you'd probably be dead. Depending on the height of the cliff. And the size of the bus. And the contents of the bus. And the durability of your skull. In fact, there are so many indefinites in your scenario that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration couldn't comment.

But know this: The NHTSA is in the final stages of researching the cost and efficacy of installing seat belts on all public transportation vehicles and motor coaches, even though fatality rates are low. (The recent records being a high of 33 deaths in 2005 and a low of three in 2003.) So if that plan goes forward, you might have belts on your bus in a matter of years. Not that you'd wear them. Maybe you should just wear a helmet at all times. Or avoid routes with cliffs.

■ ■ ■ ■

Hey, there! Here's a question from my husband: Do insects commonly bump into each other while in flight, and if not, why?—Carol

Joe: Excellent question. I told Justin to stare at the sky for seven hours straight and report back to me on midair insect collisions.

Justin: Good news: I only witnessed near misses. Bad news: My neck is killing me.

Joe: I questioned the reliability of Justin's research, so I checked in with our good friends at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

"Insects do bump into each other occasionally while flying in the air, just like humans bump into each other from time to time just walking around," says Warren Steiner, museum specialist for the entomology department. "However, insects have great vision due to their compound eyes, which allow them to detect motion really well, so they are able to avoid constant collision with other objects while flying."

Dan: Their vision is not good enough, however, for them to avoid my windshield.

■ ■ ■ ■

Guys: In gangster movies, inevitably some poor slob gets beaten up by a couple of goons for some transgression. The boss usually watches and eventually says, "That's enough," at which point the goons stop. Exactly how does he know when it's enough?—Stuck in Pennsylvania

Dan: The boss wants to demonstrate that he has both the POWER to have you beaten and the COMPASSION to stop them before the damage is fatal. The "enough" threshold falls somewhere between the two extremes.

Joe: Most movie studios go by the "rule of 37." That's how many times a person can be hit before the average viewer finds it too uncomfortable to continue watching. Boxing movies are obviously exempt from this rule, but it's pretty standard for gangster flicks.

Justin: And sometimes newsrooms.

■ ■ ■ ■

This week's motto: "Three Guys ... Three Times the Chances of Being Wrong" (submitted by Richard Orlin, of Centreville, Va.

Have a question only the Three Wise Guys can answer? Send it to wiseguys@washpost.com and await their words of wise-dom.

Live from NY, it's the real Sarah Palin on 'SNL'

By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Forget the debates, this is the political moment millions have been waiting for.

Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live"? You betcha.

Welcome to the intersection of politics and pop culture in the Lower 48

The skits and jokes, as always, are still unknown, but one gag setup seems sure: Sarah, meet W.

The Alaska governor will be appearing with host Josh Brolin, the star of the caustic new movie comedy about President Bush.

In fact, barely two weeks before the election, suddenly everybody's a comedian - from Republican vice presidential candidate Palin to the guys at the top of the bill: John McCain and Barack Obama, laughing it up this week at a big political dinner in New York.

Palin already has been the hit of the "SNL" season, though she wasn't on the scene. She was the subject of a parody featuring lookalike actress Tina Fey. Whether Palin and Fey will appear together Saturday has not been announced.

Palin suggests her fate is in the hands of the show's writers. "I haven't seen a script, not at all. They haven't even hinted about what that script is going to say," she told radio talk-show host Neal Boortz on Friday.

"But you know, I just want to be there to show Americans that we will rise above the political shots that we take because we're in this serious business for serious challenges that are facing the good American people right now."

Hmm. Presumably the show's writers have some slightly punchier lines in mind.

Fey's appearances as Palin have drawn huge audiences to the longtime skit show and sealed its reputation as TV's hottest vehicle for political satire. Obama has appeared briefly on the show since becoming a candidate, and McCain once hosted a show. One episode during the primaries suggested the media were favoring Obama over Hillary Rodham Clinton—and a lot of people thought coverage for the next few weeks was affected.

As for the candidates, casual, funny settings help them appeal to with voters on a more personal level.

From daytime talk shows like ABC's "The View" to late-night entertainment programs like NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," they get a chance to appear as self-effacing, regular people, not so deadly serious.

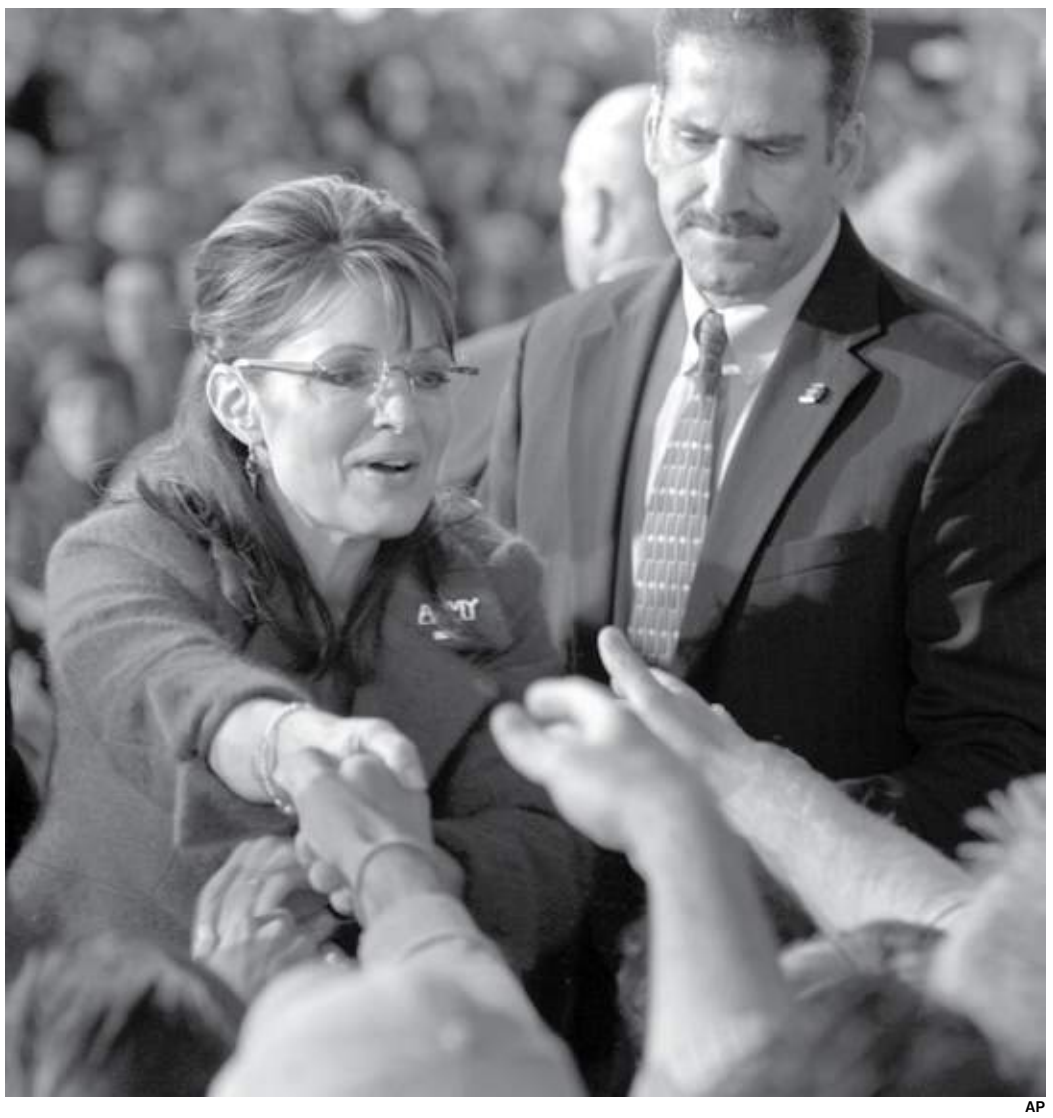
There are perils, however. Three weeks ago McCain abruptly canceled an appearance on CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman," leading its star to target insults at the candidate for show after show. McCain had said he needed to return to Washington to deal with the financial crisis, but Letterman found him being interviewed by CBS News anchor Katie Couric.

"I screwed up," McCain said in an on-air mea culpa when he appeared on Letterman's show Thursday night.

Candidates with humor on their minds are finding other avenues to reach voters. Joke-filled speeches by McCain and Obama at the annual Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner, a charity event organized by the Catholic Archdiocese of New York for the benefit of needy children, were shown live on cable TV Thursday night and excerpted on news channels Friday.

Obama made fun of the backdrop he'd had for his stadium acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

"Could somebody tell me what happened to the Greek columns that I requested?" he asked.



AP

Republican vice presidential nominee, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin greets supporters after speaking at a campaign stop in Noblesville, Friday, Oct. 17, 2008.

Tina Fey: Anyone can imitate Palin's voice

NEW YORK (AP)—Anyone can do Sarah Palin's voice, says comedian Tina Fey, who has done a pretty good job of it herself. "Not since 'Sling Blade' has there been a voice that anybody can do," Fey said. "Anybody can take a swing at this voice."

Appearing on CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman" scheduled to air Friday, Fey shared her formula for having spoofed the Alaska governor in recent "Saturday Night Live" sketches.

"It's a little bit `Fargo,' it's a little bit Reese Witherspoon in `Election,'" said Fey, adding she also borrowed the Midwestern accent of her friend Paula's grandma, "a sweet, sweet old lady from Joliet, Ill. She would always say, `Ohhhh, this and that and stuff like that!'"

In this Oct. 13, 2008 file photo, actress Tina Fey arrives for a taping of the "Late Show With David Letterman" in New York.

AP

Fey, the star of the NBC comedy "30 Rock," was formerly a writer and cast member at "SNL," where she has made a splash with guest appearances this fall making sport of her resemblance to the Republican vice presidential hopeful.

She explained to Letterman other ways she captures Palin's distinctive speaking style: dropping g's and loading sentences with r's."

"She's digging those r's," Fey said. "I think she thinks there's oil in those r's—she is digging deep!"

As spoof made way for reality, Gov. Palin was scheduled to appear on "SNL" Saturday. There was no word on whether Fey would be on hand.

McCain's appearance a big draw for Letterman

NEW YORK (AP)—Television viewers love a confrontation. David Letterman got his biggest audience in nearly three years with John McCain's rescheduled appearance on Thursday night.

McCain told Letterman that he "screwed up" by canceling a guest shot three weeks ago because of the economic crisis. Letterman has hammered him ever since, and questioned the Republican sharply Thursday on Sarah Palin and campaign tactics.

Nielsen Media Research says 6.5 million viewers watched, nearly 3 million more than Letterman typically gets. It was Letterman's biggest night since a December 2005 appearance by someone else he's had tense times with—Oprah Winfrey.

AP

In this photo released by CBS, Republican Presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, left, talks with host David Letterman on the set of "The Late Show with David Letterman," Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008 in New York.

ON THE NET

http://www.nbc.com/The-Tonight-Show-with-Jay-Leno/
http://www.nbc.com/Late-Night-with-Conan-O'Brien/index.shtml
http://lateshow.cbs.com/latenight/lateshow/

TV wrap-up of election jokes

NEW YORK (AP)—Late-night TV show hosts continued to find humor in the presidential campaign, which recently provided its latest gift to comedians: Joe the Plumber. A sampling from Friday night:

■ ■ ■

"Of course, all of this media attention has gone to (Joe the Plumber's) head. He now wants to be known as The Plumber Formally Known as Joe."—Jay Leno, NBC's "Tonight Show."

■ ■ ■

"Not since 'Sling Blade' has there been a voice that ANYBODY could do. Anybody could take a swing at this voice."—Tina Fey on parodying Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live," during a guest appearance on CBS's "Late Show."

■ ■ ■

"Every now and then I look and her and I think that lady is about exactly as smart as me, and that's not enough."—Fey on Palin, on CBS's "Late Show."

■ ■ ■

"In a speech earlier this week, John McCain said the following: He said, `I've been fighting for the United States of America since I was 17 years old.' Then he said, `Of course back then it was called Pangea.'"—Conan O'Brien, on NBC's "Late Night."

■ ■ ■

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Oliver Stone: 'W.' is steeped in fact

By MICHAEL ABRAMOWITZ
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST

Director Oliver Stone, left, with Josh Brolin on the set of "W." his new biopic about George W. Bush. Stone is perhaps best known for compelling cinematic narratives of JFK and Nixon that had a loose association with the historical record. With his new film, "Everything in the movie is annotated," Stone asserts during an interview as he asks an assistant to retrieve a notebook containing the backup for all "W."'s scenes.

NEW YORK—Oliver Stone is perhaps best known as the purveyor of compelling cinematic narratives of JFK and Nixon that had a loose association with the historical record. This time around, he is eager for his audience to understand that he is a rigorous fact-checker.

"Everything in the movie is annotated," Stone asserts during an interview Wednesday as he asks an assistant to retrieve a notebook containing the backup for all the scenes in "W.," his new biopic about George W. Bush, which opened Friday. The material will be posted on the movie's Web site, he says, and the world will see that though the director has taken certain liberties for dramatic effect, his basic findings and themes flow directly from the considerable body of work already published about Bush and his presidency.

"We're dramatists. I don't claim to be a historian or a documentarian," says Stone, looking intense and a tad disheveled the morning after the red-carpet premiere of his movie in Manhattan. "But we did read everything we could, and we tried not to cross the line of truth."

That proposition will surely be questioned for a movie that invents dialogue between Bush and his advisers in the Oval Office, speculates about the dreams that may haunt the president and presents a Freudian explanation for the invasion of Iraq as some kind of payback for a life-long series of resentments Bush has nursed against his dad, former president George H.W. Bush.

The release of "W." will also test whether there's any remaining commercial interest in a president whose approval ratings have bottomed out in recent months. By Stone's own telling, a number of Hollywood studios passed on the project, convinced there wasn't a market for a movie about Bush, leaving the 62-year-old director to finance the enterprise through foreign investors.

Even so, Stone is convinced that he still has a fantastic story to tell, the details of which he claims are still unknown by many Americans. "He's a character that you couldn't make up, bigger than fiction," Stone says, a fleck of his preppy upbringing in Connecticut and New York still audible in his voice. "He's bumbled his way into this mess—into this extraordinary nightmare. Frank Capra could not make this up. He's the reverse of 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.' "

"It's a great story, for chrissake," Stone goes on. "Mark Twain would tell it. Dickens would tell it. How could you ignore this guy? They ask me about Obama and McCain every day. ... God, these are pygmies compared to what he has done. They are going to live in his shadow for a while."

Stone's obvious interest in the psychological roots of his character, a fascination Bush and his father famously detest, has Bushworld ready to trash a project few have seen. "From what I have seen from the script and from I have seen of the trailers, this is how the lunatic asylum inmates would write it," says Karl Rove, Bush's onetime political adviser. "It is so laughable to suggest that the actions of this president are driven by a dysfunctional relationship with his father."

Asked for her reaction, White House press secretary Dana Perino says only that "The Post's readers will understand that we have more important things to do than comment on this ridiculous movie."

Still, Stone's movie is probably more nuanced than the president's defenders might expect from a director they see as a kooky left-winger. Stone has tried to debunk some of the traditional stereotypes about Bush—in particular the notion that he's been led around by the nose by Dick Cheney or Rove. A number of scenes make clear Stone's view that Bush is the dominant player in these relationships and that Bush is shrewder than his critics will concede.

As portrayed by Josh Brolin, Stone's Bush, while perhaps goofier than the real president, also conveys the powerful charisma that propelled the onetime black sheep of the Bush family to the presidency after his alcohol-dominated younger days. "He's oddly likable," Stone says. "I am empathetic, not sympathetic."

The empathy may stem from some shared personal experiences. Both Bush and Stone grew up as the children of privilege (Stone was the son of a wealthy stockbroker). Both matriculated at Yale in 1964, though Stone dropped out and later volunteered for combat duty in Vietnam. Bush finished his degree and headed south, where he avoided the war by serving in the Texas and Alabama Air National Guard.

Stone, whose Vietnam experience fueled some of his most successful work ("Platoon," "Born on the Fourth of July"), says he did not know Bush at Yale but "knew the type"—"retrograde" frat boy, as he puts it. They met once, in 1999, when Stone was invited to a Bush fundraiser in Los Angeles. After the event, Stone met privately with the then-Texas governor and says he came away charmed and convinced that Bush would be elected president the next year.

Stone says the movie relied heavily on journalistic accounts of Bush that he says have broken through a "veil" of secrecy surrounding the administration; he cites in particular Bob Woodward's books, an account of prewar spin by Michael Isikoff and David Corn, Ron Suskind's "The One Percent Doctrine," and books by New York Times correspondents Michael Gordon and James Risen.

"We could not have made this movie without those breakthroughs—those books," Stone says. He also says he got little cooperation from anyone in the Bush family or the administration, not surprising given his leftist reputation; he does say he got some technical assistance from unidentified people in the military who helped him structure a key scene in the situation room.

There will be much that purists for accuracy won't like about this movie. Bush does not call his dad "Poppy," as the imaginary president does, nor does the elder Bush call his son "Junior." Stone's account almost certainly overstates the amount of formal debate inside the administration about the decision to go to war in Iraq, and assigns to former secretary of state Colin Powell (played well by Jeffrey Wright) a much more vigorous role as war skeptic than the historical record so far seems to support. Stone concedes as much, saying he elevated Powell's role to sharpen the dramatic tension. But he says he captured the essential truth—that, as he puts it, Powell was rolled by Bush and signed off on the invasion.

Stone says his departures from literal truth were reasonable accommodations to heighten dramatic interest: "I think we got the overall thing right."

Springsteen, Joel team up to aid Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—It was "Born to Run" meets "New York State of Mind"—with a little bit of "Hail to the Chief" thrown in for good measure.

Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel joined forces in a concert to raise money for Barack Obama's presidential campaign and the Democratic Party on Thursday night. They got a little help from India.Arie, John Legend and Springsteen's wife, Patti Scialfa, as they tore through the rock legends' long list of hits at the Hammerstein Ballroom.

When they launched into "Born to Run," Springsteen said, "This is for the senator."

As the show concluded, Obama made an appearance onstage. He called the event "a magical evening" and said he wouldn't ruin it with a long speech. Then he delivered a speech comparing the struggling, everyday people in Joel's and Springsteen's songs to the people he's met on the campaign trail.

He warned supporters not to get overconfident because he leads in the polls.

"Don't underestimate the capacity of Democrats to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Don't underestimate our ability to screw it up," Obama said. "I want everybody running scared."

Obama also offered a new explanation for his decision to seek the White House.

"I was sitting offstage with (his wife) Michelle, and I ... said, 'Honey, the reason I'm running for president is I can't be Bruce Springsteen. I can't be Billy Joel,'" Obama said.

Springsteen and Joel focused more on music than politics, alternating between each other's songs—clearly having fun.

Springsteen hugged Joel during "Spirit in the Night," then ended up laying across the piano as he sang. Joel left the piano and picked up a guitar for "Glory Days." They even stuck a bit of The Beatles' "Hard Day's Night" into the middle of Joel's song "River of Dreams."

When Springsteen suggested they slow things down a bit, Joel began banging out a playful version of "Hail to the Chief" in honor of Obama's presidential hopes.

Nearly 2,000 people attended the "Change Rocks" concert. The cheap seats were $500, but big spenders could shell out $25,000 each.

Springsteen's song "The Rising" has become an unofficial anthem for Obama's campaign, often playing when Obama bounds onstage at his rallies. Inspired by 9/11 terrorist attacks, it strikes a defiant tone with lines like: "Sky of longing and emptiness/ Sky of fullness, sky of blessed life/ Come on up for the rising/ Come on up, lay your hands in mine."

After Obama spoke, the stars closed with another song heard at his rallies, Stevie Wonder's "Signed, Sealed, Delivered."

Obama and his wife stayed on stage, clapping, swaying and even bumping hips at one point.

Spears jury leaves for weekend without verdict

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The jury in Britney Spears' trial is taking the weekend to mull whether the pop singer is guilty of driving in California without a valid license.

Jurors left a San Fernando Valley courthouse late Friday afternoon after deliberating the misdemeanor charge for slightly more than two hours. With no verdict reached, the jury of eight women and four men adjourned and were told to return Monday.

Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney Michael Amerian declined to say what punishment he would seek if Spears is convicted. She faces up to six months in jail and a fine, though her lack of a prior criminal record means a lighter penalty is likely.

Jurors are weighing whether Spears was required to have a California license when she hit a parked car and left the scene in August 2007. Amerian contended that Spears was ostensibly a Los Angeles resident because she chose to get married here, got divorced here, and her two sons were born at LA-area hospitals.

He acknowledged Friday that it was "extremely rare" for misdemeanor driving without a license cases to go to trial, but said that was Spears' decision and pursuit of the case was justified.

But he noted the case stemmed from Spears hitting a parked car and leaving the scene of the accident without leaving a note. The case originally included a hit-and-run charge, but Spears settled that count with the car's owner.

Amerian said Spears rejected two offers for a resolution. Spears' attorney, J. Michael Flanagan, has said she refused the deals because she didn't want a criminal record, and plans to appeal if convicted.

Flanagan told jurors that Spears had a valid Louisiana driver's license at the time of the accident and considered that state home. She takes a homestead exemption on her house there and registered to vote there.

He tried to explain that it would be normal for her to have multiple residences in different states and that she could legally retain her Louisiana license. Jamie Spears testified that his daughter intends to return to Louisiana once she regains custody of her young boys, Sean Preston and Jayden James.

But father Jamie Spears' appearance allowed Amerian to tell jurors that Spears' voter registration had lapsed, and that she signed, under penalty of perjury, a document stating she was a California resident when filing for divorce in Los Angeles.

Katie Holmes and 'All My Sons' debuts on Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—The curtain officially went up on Katie Holmes' Broadway debut Thursday as the revival of Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" made its much anticipated premiere.

After a month of previews, opening night was somewhat muted on a blustery New York evening.

A gaggle of reporters lined the red carpet while about 100 stargazers watched from the sidewalk, which was patrolled by at least 30 police officers.

As it did on the first night of previews, the group Anonymous again protested against Scientology, because Holmes is wed to its biggest icon, Tom Cruise. About 35 protesters carried signs reading "Run, Katie, Run" and chanted "Scientology kills" from a cordoned-off area down the block from the Gerald Schoenfeld Theater.

Joni Vitale and husband George drove up from Pomona, N.J. for three reasons: "Tom, Tom and Tom." But they were disappointed as there was no sign of Cruise, who attended the first preview and cheerfully called the production "extraordinary."

AP

Actors Katie Holmes and Patrick Wilson take a bow at the opening night of the Broadway play "All My Sons" on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008 in New York.

Among the celebrities strolling the red carpet: Patricia Clarkson (who played Holmes' mother in the 2003 film "Pieces of April"), Barbara Walters, Dennis Farina and Isabella Rossellini.

Rebecca Miller, the playwright's daughter, came to see the latest version of her father's play, which was first performed on Broadway in 1947.

"The thing about Katie Holmes is that she's so right for the part," said Miller, a filmmaker and wife of Academy Award-winning actor Daniel Day-Lewis.

Hollywood stars such as Julia Roberts and Sean Combs have in recent years tried their talents on the New York stage and brought huge buzz to their productions. Holmes' Broadway entree was no different; "All My Sons" was the highest-grossing play on Broadway in its first full week of previews, taking in $684,002.

Hip-hop stars lend advice on mortgage, stability

ATLANTA (AP)—With the housing market in a slump, foreclosures on the rise and lenders keeping a tighter grip on mortgage money, about 2,000 interested consumers turned out Friday night to get real estate advice from ... music stars.

Hip-hop music pioneer Russell Simmons, along with mortgage consultants and entertainment figures such as Ludacris, Yung Joc, Gorilla Zoe, D. Woods of the girl group Danity Kane and music executive Kevin Liles, spoke to the crowd at the event billed as the Hip-Hop Summit at Clark Atlanta University. It's tied to the Oct. 23 BET Hip-Hop Awards show.

The theme: "Urging People to 'Get Your Money Right!'"

Simmons believes now is the best time to buy a home because the property will eventually appreciate.

"There are opportunities out there, but people just don't know about it," Simmons said. "With financial stability, it's a great time to buy when it's low. It'll pick back up in the long run."

Participants came away with an 86-page booklet, half in English and half in Spanish, stressing the importance of home ownership, a solid credit score and other vital steps for first time home buyers.

One of those who attended, Aaliyah Mitchell, 24, said, "I'm certainly going to benefit from this."

Four Tops frontman Levi Stubbs dead at 72

DETROIT (AP)—Four Tops frontman Levi Stubbs, whose dynamic and emotive voice drove such Motown classics as "Reach Out (I'll Be There)" and "Baby I Need Your Loving," died Friday at 72.

He had been ill recently and died in his sleep at the Detroit house he shared with his wife of 48 years, said Dana Meah, the wife of a grandson. The Wayne County medical examiner's office also confirmed the death.

With Stubbs in the lead, the Four Tops sold millions of records and performed for more than four decades without a change in personnel.

AP

This Jan. 1990 file photo shows the "Four Tops" in New York. Left to right: Renaldo "Obie" Benson, Levi Stubbs, Abdul "Duke" Fakir and Lawrence Payton.

"Levi Stubbs was one of the great voices of all times," former Motown labelmate Smokey Robinson said. "He was very near and dear to my heart. He was my friend and my brother, I miss him. God bless his family and comfort them."

The Four Tops began singing together in 1953 under the name the Four Aims and signed a deal with Chess Records. They later changed their names to the Four Tops to avoid being confused with the Ames Brothers.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Andy Dick pleads guilty to drug, battery charges

MURRIETA, Calif. (AP)—Actor Andy Dick has plead guilty to misdemeanor drug and battery charges. Dick was ordered to serve three years of probation and wear an alcohol monitor for the next year, court records show. He avoided felony charges stemming from his arrest in mid-July after prosecutors determined Dick did not commit felony sexual battery after a teenage girl accused him of pulling her top down. The "NewsRadio" actor did not appear in a Riverside County courtroom on Friday to answer to the charges, but his attorney stood in for him. He was arrested after officers responded to a call about an intoxicated male outside a restaurant in Murrieta, a city about 80 miles east of Los Angeles.

Estate of Macy's heir sues Jay Leno over rare auto

NEW YORK (AP)—The estate of a department store heir says in a lawsuit that Jay Leno was illegally sold a valuable automobile at a sham auction. The lawsuit was filed Tuesday in Manhattan by the estate of Macy's heir John W. Straus. It says a 1931 Duesenberg was sold to the "Tonight Show" host at an auction designed to take that car and a 1930 Rolls Royce while Straus was ill. Court papers say Leno, an avid car collector, bought the Duesenberg and someone else bought the Rolls. The suit says the cars were worth $1.7 million and were in a Manhattan garage for more than 50 years. Straus died in May at age 88, and the suit says he paid all that was owed to store the cars.

Leno spokesman Dick Guttman had no comment.

Former Blink-182 drummer released from burn center

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Travis Barker is out of a Los Angeles burn center where he was being treated after surviving a plane crash. The former Blink-182 drummer was released Friday from the Grossman Burn Center. He had been there since Sept. 29 with second- and third-degree burns. The burn center says the 32-year-old rocker will continue being treated at home and is expected to fully recover over the next few months. Barker was initially treated in Georgia after the Sept. 19 crash in South Carolina. Disc jockey Adam Goldstein, better known as DJ AM, also survived. Two pilots and two other passengers died.

Mom bears brunt of daughter's anger over parents' divorce

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband cheated on me, so I decided to end the marriage. I didn't tell anyone the true reason behind the divorce because I wanted to keep it private.

My 14-year-old daughter is extremely angry with me and blames me for the divorce. Her father can do no wrong in her eyes. I have custody, and our house has become a war zone.

So far, I have revealed no details to her except that we both love her and our marriage simply did not work out. I am tempted to tell her the truth, hoping we can call a truce and try to get our relationship back on track. Is this a bad idea?

WANTS TO DISCLOSE

DEAR WANTS: I understand the temptation to unload, but yield to it only if there is no other way. If you and your husband are on speaking terms—and for your daughter's sake, I hope you are—schedule some time for the three of you to get together and talk about the divorce. At that time, HE should reinforce to her that the divorce was mutual, and you should not be blamed for it.

P.S. If there is one particular woman involved, your daughter will be meeting her pretty soon. Many 14-year-olds are quite worldly these days, and she'll likely draw the right conclusions herself.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My grandmother died recently after being hospitalized for more than a year. My boyfriend, "Tom," has a sister who is a registered nurse at the hospital where Gramma was staying. "Gail" was one of my grandmother's nurses and would often tell Tom about the treatments. It bothered me because I felt it was a breach of confidentiality, and I sometimes wondered if she discussed Gramma's condition with others as well.

The day Gramma died, I was working. Tom came to the restaurant where I work to give me the sad news. I became emotional and asked Tom how he knew. He explained that Gail had called him.

I understand that Tom wanted me to hear the news in person, but my family had decided they would wait to tell me until after I got home from work that evening, which is what I would have preferred.

Gail may not have meant any harm, but I don't believe what she did was right or fair. Should I report her to the hospital? I am still furious about it.

SAD AND CONFUSED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR SAD AND CONFUSED: Yes, you should. The administrators need to know that the patient privacy policies they have in place are being violated, since an employee who would do this to you is likely to be doing it to others, which could lead to a lawsuit. However, you should be prepared for the fact that reporting your boyfriend's sister will probably end the romance.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm not a negative person, but I rarely laugh at anything. My husband of eight years is growing tired of the fact that I find nothing funny. Is it possible for someone to lack a sense of humor, and do you have any advice for me?

NO FUNNY BONE IN UTAH

DEAR NO FUNNY BONE: There are people who have little or no sense of humor. Others appreciate humor and will smile, but do not laugh out loud. This is why some television shows have laugh tracks.

I'm sorry your husband is "growing tired" of the fact that you find nothing funny, but he should have known what you were like when he married you. Perhaps it's time he concentrated on developing his serious side. Tell him that—but do it with a smile.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Red Sox bask in glow of amazing comeback

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—The impact of Boston's amazing comeback against Tampa Bay in Game 5 of the AL championship series was still hard to comprehend for several Red Sox players before Friday's off-day workout.

"It really hasn't sunken in yet," outfielder Jason Bay said. "It was unbelievable."

Down 7-0 in the seventh inning, the Red Sox rallied to beat Tampa Bay 8-7 Thursday night, cutting their ALCS deficit to 3-2.

"It wasn't a good feeling," Bay said. "They beat us pretty good. We didn't have anything going. When we got it to 7-4, we knew we could make a run. I don't know how we did it."

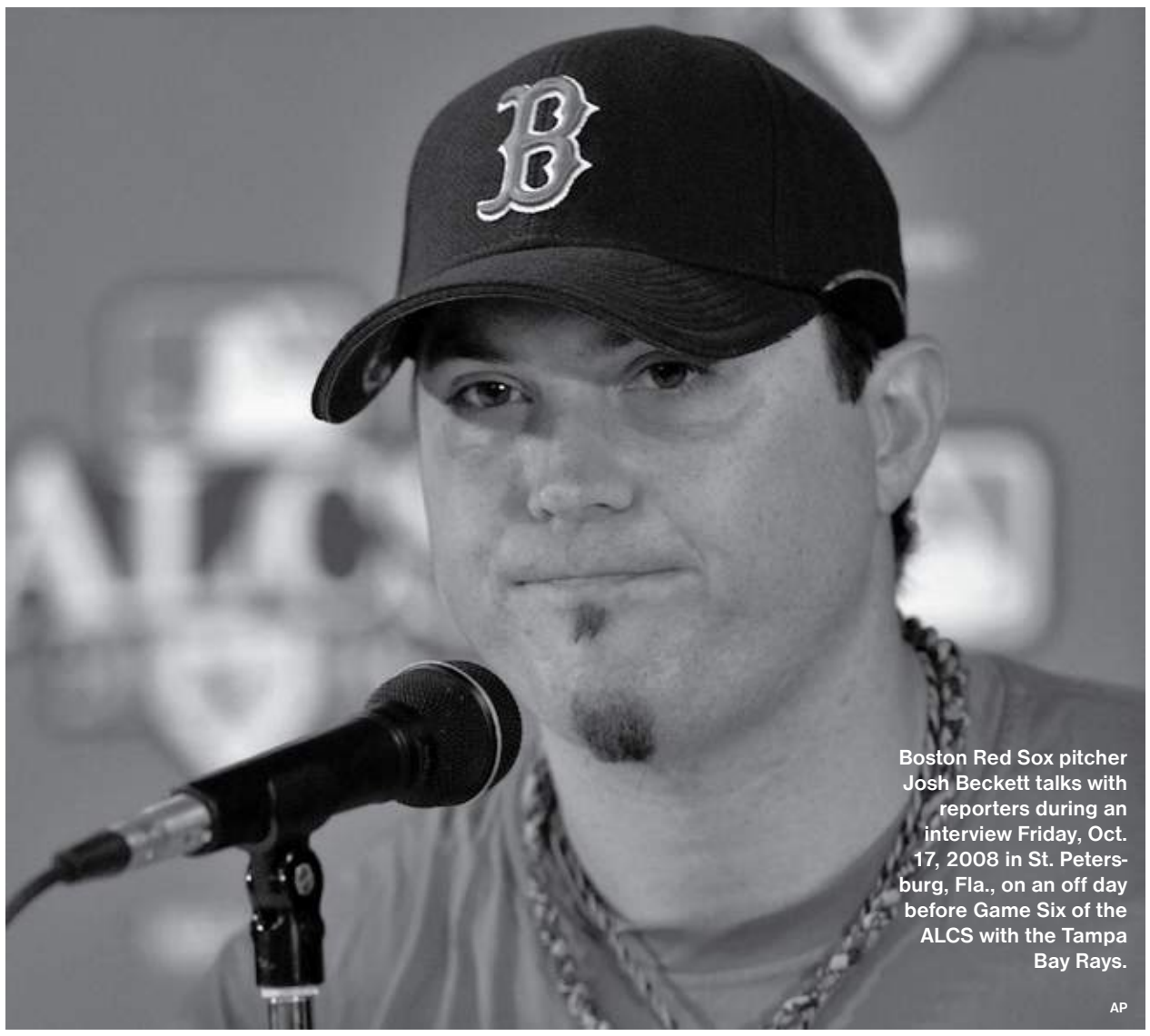
David Ortiz, who hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning, said the feeling in the Red Sox dugout was "not good" before the late rally began.

"If anybody tells you something else, they're lying," Ortiz said. "Especially when you're facing a team like that."

The Red Sox are 25-11 all-time in games in which they could have been eliminated from a postseason series. Boston has won its last eight such ALCS games, a league championship series record.

Boston will need two more elimination-saving victories to defend its World Series title.

"As long as we're playing baseball, something is going right," manager Terry Francona said. "So we're thrilled to be here. Now saying that, we have a job to do."



Boston Red Sox pitcher Josh Beckett talks with reporters during an interview Friday, Oct. 17, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Fla., on an off day before Game Six of the ALCS with the Tampa Bay Rays.

AP

Even after bashing their way to a three games to one lead in the ALCS, Rays pitcher Matt Garza and his teammates figured Boston had something left.

"We had a feeling that they were going to make a push like this," Garza said. "This Red Sox team doesn't go down quietly. So we're just going to come out and keep fighting like we've done all year. Play hard for nine and see what happens."

Garza would start Game 7 against Boston left-hander Jon Lester on Sunday night if the series goes that far. Tampa Bay's James Shields will face Boston's Josh Beckett in Game 6 Saturday night.

"We've dealt with adversity all year long," Shields said. "The way we've come back each time has been impeccable."

Rays manager Joe Maddon points out that Tampa Bay still took two of three at Fenway Park.

"They came back and beat us last night," Maddon said. "I think that the thing that's been overlooked is we played really well. We played well for three games in Fenway under very difficult circumstances. They're defending champions. They've got the heart of a champion.

Rays confident despite devastating loss to Red Sox

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—The young Tampa Bay Rays shrugged off question after question about team psyche. They find it laughable that anybody believes they may not have the resolve to close out Boston in the AL championship series. "It really is funny," pitcher James Shields said Friday, some 15 hours after the defending World Series champion Red Sox forced Game 6 in the ALCS with the second-biggest comeback in postseason history.

It's the type of defeat that might destroy some teams. But the Rays have been resilient all year and believe they have the makeup to rebound after not completing the job at Fenway Park on Friday night.

"I know where we've come from, where we are right now, and I have total faith that we're going to finish this thing off," manager Joe Maddon said, reflecting on Boston's 8-7 win in Game 5.

"It's about one moment at a time. We lost that game. That's over with. There's nothing we can do about that, and there's nothing constructive we can take out of that, except I thought we played really well. I think that's being overlooked."

Despite blowing a 7-0 lead over the final three innings, the Rays won two of three at Fenway and are up in the series, three games to two.

Now, they've got two cracks at winning the pennant at Tropicana Field, where they compiled the best home record in baseball this season.

Shields, whose nickname is Big Game, will pitch Game 6 Saturday night against Josh Beckett, Boston's struggling postseason ace who was lit up by Tampa Bay's suddenly potent offense in Game 2.

"That was a tough loss. It was disappointing, but I woke up this morning feeling pretty good," Shields said.

"When it comes down to it, they have more pressure than we do. They're the defending champions. We're a team that finished in last place last year."

AP

Tampa Bay Rays pitcher J.P. Howell, right and catcher Dioner Navarro walk off the field after Boston Red Sox's victory over the Rays, 8-7, in Game 5 of the American League baseball championship series in Boston, Friday, Oct. 17, 2008.

Even before the Rays left Fenway for the airport and a long flight that landed in Florida in the wee hours of the morning, Maddon had a good feeling about the way his players were handling the loss.

The Rays were seven outs from their first trip to the World Series before a seemingly comfortable lead slipped away.

The Red Sox rallied from a 3-0 deficit to beat the New York Yankees in the 2004 ALCS and were down 3-1 to Cleveland before coming back to win last year's ALCS. Both times they went on to win the World Series.

"You don't want to get to the situation where you are 1-and-3," Red Sox slugger David Ortiz said. "But you get to it, you've got to keep on trying. You've got to bring everything you've got into it and we have."

The Rays are undaunted by history. They've see no reason why they won't play well in Game 6 and, if necessary, Game 7 Sunday night, when right-hander Matt Garza would pitch against Boston lefty Jon Lester.

"I would be surprised if there's any hangover," Maddon said, adding that he had not spoken with the players about putting Thursday behind them.

"For me to draw attention to it, I don't like to do that. I think sometimes in an attempt to help, you can actually make things worse. I really believe that. ... Baseball players a lot of times have their own mechanism to deal with things."

The Red Sox realize they still have a steep hill to climb, considering they lost eight of nine at Tropicana Field during the regular season and split the first two games of the ALCS here.

But they also believe there just as much pressure on the Rays.

"We like our chances," closer Jonathan Papelbon said. "It's almost like, when you back us up and push us into the wall, that's when we come out."

The Rays have an unwritten rule that they don't dwell on tough losses for more 30 minutes following a game.

When his players were talkative, even joking one with one another, when they got on the plane, Maddon was confident they were leading a bad three innings behind.

"I know we're young, and again, I know we lack experience in a lot of ways. But we're gaining it right now. My experience with our group is that we've been very resilient all year," the manager said.

"I never want them to have a sense of desperation. That's my whole point. I feel like if I'm doing my job right, they're not going to feel that. If I'm doing my job inappropriately, they are going to feel that."

Beckett, who battled injuries this season, became the first Red Sox pitcher to win four games in a single postseason a year ago.

The big right-hander has struggled in both of his postseason starts this year, however manager Terry Francona's confidence in him isn't shaken.

"When he is relaxed and comfortable and just executing pitches, there may not be a better pitcher in the game," Francona said.

"Again, there's been some things he's fighting. Some of it is inconsistency because of work, and it was hard for him. But again, if you have to give a ball to somebody in Game 6, I can't imagine not being excited to give him the ball."

Cowboys still aren't saying whether Romo will play

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Tony Romo was basically a spectator in the middle of the field when the Dallas Cowboys started practice Friday. Nothing changed after that. The Cowboys listed their two-time Pro Bowl quarterback as questionable for Sunday's game after he didn't participate in practice, the last one before playing at St. Louis. Romo has a broken pinkie on his throwing hand.

During the early portion of practice open to reporters, Romo mimicked throwing motions and lobbed only a couple of balls, but mostly stood and watched with his injured right hand hanging to his side or clasped behind his back.

Other than confirming Romo's status, coach Wade Phillips wouldn't elaborate when he made a brief appearance in the locker room after practice.

Tight end Jason Witten didn't answer questions, and usually talkative receiver Patrick Crayton responded, "You're not getting anything out of me."

Romo, who hasn't commented all week, didn't appear in the locker room when it was open to reporters. Neither did Brad Johnson, the 40-year-old backup who is in line to get his first start since 2006 for Minnesota.

While on the field, Romo's hand was wrapped with a fabric covering whatever protective device being used to apparently stabilize the pinkie. Only the tips of three fingers were exposed, with the index finger and thumb free.

Johnson and third-teamer Brooks Bollinger threw passes during early drills, with Romo standing nearby watching.

Before practice, Phillips said the team has been considering "a lot of different scenarios" since Romo started throwing Wednesday, three days after the injury that was initially expected to keep Romo out up to three games.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a radio interview earlier Friday that there was no chance that Romo could reinjure the pinkie because of the cast-like protection on his hand.

When Phillips was asked if he had been told Romo couldn't do further damage to the finger, the coach responded, "Dr. Jerry. Whatever Jerry says, I'm going with."

Jones also said the decision if Romo will play will depend on how the quarterback feels Sunday.

AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo (9) holds his right hand out as he talks with a coach standing nearby as the team stretches at the start of practice at the team's football training facility in Irving, Texas, Friday, Oct. 17, 2008.

NFL BRIEFS

Brady has second knee procedure, report says

BOSTON (AP)—Tom Brady has undergone a second procedure in 10 days on his injured left knee, according to a published report. The Boston Globe reported Friday that the New England Patriots quarterback had the procedure Wednesday for an infection in his left knee that was operated on Oct. 6. Brady's agent, Donald Yee, did not respond to a phone call or an e-mail. Calls to the Patriots and the doctor who performed the first surgery in Los Angeles, Neal ElAttrache, were not returned. Brady suffered the season-ending injury in the opener against the Kansas City Chiefs.

Steelers' Parker out again with knee injury

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pro Bowl running back Willie Parker didn't practice for a third consecutive day Friday and won't play in the Pittsburgh Steelers' division game in Cincinnati on Sunday. Parker has missed the past two games with a sprained left knee. He returned to practice Monday and was expected to play against the Bengals, only to aggravate the injury while working out on his own Tuesday, according to coach Mike Tomlin. Tomlin, who was hurt Sept. 21 in Philadelphia, will be replaced by third-down back Mewelde Moore. Moore, making his first start since 2005, ran for 99 yards against Jacksonville on Oct. 5. Also not practicing Friday was left tackle Marvel Smith, who will be replaced by former starting right tackle Max Starks. Pro Bowl nose tackle Casey Hampton took part in limited work for the second day in a row and is expected to sit out his third consecutive game. Chris Hoke would start for him. The Steelers (4-1) have won their last seven games in Cincinnati (0-6).

Browns' Winslow practices, could play Sunday

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Cleveland Browns tight end Kellen Winslow practiced for the first time since being hospitalized with an undisclosed illness and could play Sunday against the Washington Redskins. "It's good to be back," Winslow said Friday. Winslow was in good spirits as he got dressed along with his teammates, who upset the New York Giants on Monday night without him. During a brief interview at his locker, Winslow declined to give any details about what forced him to be kept at the Cleveland Clinic for three days last week. "I'm not going to tell you exactly," Winslow said. "It was really the Cleveland Browns' decision to keep it undisclosed and I agree with that. Just because I catch a football doesn't mean I should tell what's wrong with me or what happened. I'm back and I'm happy to be back. I think I'm good to go. "I just feel because I play professional football and can catch a football, it doesn't mean I should let people into my personal business."

Cavs' Delonte West being treated for mood disorder

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cleveland Cavaliers guard Delonte West contemplated quitting before leaving the team's training camp to seek help for depression and "a mood disorder" he has been battling his entire life.

West, who recently signed a two-year contract with Cleveland, said he removed himself from the team to "get my thoughts back together." He missed three preseason games during his absence from Oct. 4-15.

"I felt a feeling of anger and I just wanted to throw it all away and quit the team," he said.

The 25-year-old candidly discussed his condition following practice on Friday. West said he had been troubled by his behavior toward a high school referee during a scrimmage at the Cavs' training facility on Oct. 3. West took out his frustrations on the official, and said the incident was a warning signal for him to seek treatment to combat an illness that has troubled him for years.

"I needed help," he said.

West is taking medication and has been attending therapy sessions.

"In a sense, you feel like a weaker man because you have to raise your hand and ask for help," West said. "But I found out over the last week that it made me a stronger person. I came back focused, and with the help of some medicine and talking with people on a regular basis, I'm back in good spirits.

"I'm back here 100 percent."

West played 28 minutes in Cleveland's loss to San Antonio on Thursday night. He made only 2-of-12 shots from the field and scored only 7 points, but the former Saint Joseph's guard said it was "the funnest game I've played in years."

"Being on the court felt like being on the playground as a child again," he said. "I had the time of my life last night."

West was acquired by the Cavaliers last season from Seattle as part of an 11-player trade before the Feb. 21 deadline. He was one of Cleveland's best players in the postseason, averaging 10.8 points, 3.3 rebounds and 4.2 assists in 13 games.

He entered the offseason as a restricted free agent. On Sept. 12, the Cavaliers, who were eliminated in the Eastern Conference finals last season by Boston, signed him to a two-year deal that included a club option for the 2011-12 season. West is expected to compete with Daniel Gibson for playing time in Cleveland's backcourt alongside Mo Williams.

West said his mood problems date to his childhood. He has always been able to find peace in the gym, but he has struggled with relationships away from the floor.

West said his mood swings seem to be most erratic when his life seems to be in order.

"When everything is on the upside, I'm feeling the worst," said West, who thanked his teammates, including LeBron James, for their support while he was away.

"This is the epitome of a family organization," he said. "I want to go for war for these people. I would die for them, I really mean that."

Cavaliers coach Mike Brown wasn't surprised to hear that West was open about discussing his condition.

"He's a good guy," Brown said. "He's a trustworthy guy and forthright."

West said he's not concerned about any outside perception about his condition and he's not worried about what others think about him.

"Only God is my judge," he said. "All that matters is how I feel about myself."

Turnesa, Kuchar share lead in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Marc Turnesa holed out from 159 yards for eagle on the par-4 18th hole to offset a 17th-hole double bogey and maintain a share of the lead Friday in the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Tied for the first-round lead, Turnesa followed his opening 62 with a 64 to match Matt Kuchar at 18-under 126—one off the PGA Tour's 36-hole records for total score and relation to par. Kuchar had his second straight 63 at TPC Summerlin.

Zach Johnson, the other first-round leader after winning the Texas Open last week, was third at 17 under after a 65 in sunny, calm conditions. The

Turnesa, a PGA Tour rookie, birdied Nos. 14-16, then dropped two strokes on the par-3 17th after hitting into the water. He got the strokes back on 18 with the eagle after a 300-yard drive.

"I hit a bad shot on 17 and made double," Turnesa said. "Then, on 18, I hit a good shot and got a little lucky as well, and it went in the hole.

"I was a little disappointed but there is so much golf to be played. I was just trying to put a good swing on it on 18 and get it in the fairway and make birdie when I put it in the fairway, so I was a bit surprised. I mean, it looked good. I knew in the air it was going to be close. So when I heard the crowd, it was a good feeling."

Kuchar, who missed the cuts in his last seven starts, had nine birdies—five on his last seven holes—in his bogey-free round.

"It's not often when you can follow up a 63 with another 63," Kuchar said. "To do that was a lot of fun today. There were no bogeys today, and that's a nice thing to not have on your card.

"You've got a stretch there of definitely some birdie opportunities—a drivable par 4, a reachable par 5, and I strung together a couple other nice ones. That last one, at 18, I hit a 7-iron from about 180 to, gosh, a foot and a half.

"I think the last one was the most fun, putting it to a foot and a half. I had made my only bogey yesterday on 18. It was good to get back with a birdie today."

Pat Perez (63), John Mallinger (64) and Ken Duke (66) were 15 under, Canadian Open winner Chez Reavie, former UNLV star Ryan Moore (64) and Chris Stroud (65) followed at 14 under, and Rich Beem (65) and Nick Watney (68) were 13 under.

"You've just got to make putts on these greens," Beem said. "It's just a putting contest out here this week much more so than anything else because the golf course is really good. There's nothing out here. No wind. The pins have actually been fairly easy, which I think is great for the PGA Tour staff to do that.

"Let's make birdies. Who cares if we shoot 28-under par. That's the nature of the game. Hopefully, they'll keep doing the same thing."

John Daly missed the cut by a stroke, shooting a 66 to finish at 5 under.

Isaiah wins opener in Genesis Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Isaiah-Mission Correction Ministry edged Ezekiel-Victorious Christian Church, 70-65, in the opening game in the 3rd CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-Genesis Cup Friday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

Ezekiel controlled the game in the first half, but Isaiah found its rhythm in the second half to nail a five-point win.

Orlando Artiaga provided the needed spark for Isaiah in the second half, drilling 18 of his total points in the last 20 minutes of the game. Artiaga finished with 22 markers.

James Wabinga also helped Isaiah's cause, as he matched Artiaga's output.

Wabinga kept Isaiah afloat in the first half, hitting 14 markers.

Ezekiel was ahead at halftime, 33-32, behind Kae Bernardo's 17 first-half points. M.J. Capalad and Allan Chavez added six apiece.

Bernardo and Capalad continued to sizzle in the second half, firing 10 markers apiece, while Rocky Topacio made all his 11 markers in that period.

But the trio failed to get support from the rest of its teammates, as Brendon Perez was the only other Ezekiel player to score in the second half and had only a point.

In contrast, Wabinga and Artiaga, drew help from four players with Oyo Mendoza adding four, Dindo Pablo and Jeremy Tamayo chipping in three apiece, and Bart Demapan contributing two.

Bernardo led all scorers with 27 points, while Capalad and Topacio had 16 and 11 markers, respectively.

This year's Genesis Cup has four teams competing for the championships.

Last season's pennant champion Daniel will duel Joshua in the next match on Friday.

Games in the Genesis Cup are played every Friday and Saturday.

The four participating teams will be playing in a three-round robin regular season with the top two teams squaring off in the winner-take-all finals. The last two placers will duel for the third place trophy.

Ezekiel, Daniel, Joshua and Isaiah were among the 10 teams that participated in the 2007 edition of the Genesis Cup.

Last year's champion was Jeremiah, who beat Daniel in the finals, 105-84. Joshua defeated Caleb in the battle for third place, 95-90.

Other teams that joined last season's Genesis Cup were Nehemiah, Elijah, Gideon, Hosea, and Samuel.

Isaiah 70 – Wabinga 22, Artiaga 22, Tamayo 7, Mendoza 6, Demapan 6, Ramos 4, Pablo 3.

Ezekiel 65 – Bernardo 27, Capalad 16, Topacio 11, Chavez 6, Perez 3, Lunzaga 2.

Scoring by halves: 32-33, 70-65.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Isaiah's Orlando Artiaga, right, dribbles past Ezekiel's Brendon Perez during the opening game in the 3rd CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-Genesis Cup Friday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

San Miguel sends Rain or Shine back to earth

MANILA, Philippines— San Miguel made a conscious effort to neutralize the effectivity of Gabe Norwood and Solomon Mercado as the Beermen stopped the Rain or Shine charge Wednesday, dealing the Elasto Painters an 89-82 defeat in the 208-09 KFC PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We tried to gang-defend them (Norwood and Solomon). They're really creating plays for Rain or Shine. They're the newfound strength of the team," said San Miguel coach Siot Tanquingcen.

"Rain or Shine has become like the Phoenix Suns in the NBA. They penetrate then kick out, hurting you with outside shots," Tanquingcen added.

Tanquingcen had only good words for Rain or Shine oddly after his Beermen sent them crashing back to earth.

"Rain or Shine is the team of the future. There's no doubt about their talent. They're young, quick and feisty. They fight you in every single play. It so happens that we still have the deeper bench. May nabunot pa rin kami sa inilaban nila sa amin," Tanquingcen explained.

Dondon Hontiveros, Jay Washington, Lordy Tugade, Mick Pennisi and Olsen Racela stepped up for the Beermen as they withstood the challenge of the Elasto Painters, forcing a three-way tie at third place among the two of them and the Talk n Text Tropang Texters at 2-1.

Rain or Shine suffered its first defeat following back-to-back wins over Air21 and Red Bull, leaving Alaska and Barangay Ginebra as the remaining unbeaten teams in the field.

Solomon, Ryan Arana and Eddie Laure were held down way below their averages in the first two games. The three averaged no less than 13 points each before the San Miguel game where they combined for only 19.

Curiously, Solomon, Norwood and TY Tang, the team's three rookies, were all limited to seven points.

Nevertheless, the Elasto Painters put up a tough fight, riding high on the exploits of Rob Wainwright, Jay-R Reyes and Allan Salangsang as they came charging back from a 19-point deficit to even seize a 69-68 lead entering the last four minutes of play.

Tugade put order back in the Beermen's game with a five-point binge, pushing the team back on top at 74-69.

Racela, Hontiveros and Dorian Pena then delivered the coup de grace as the Beermen made it two in a row after losing their first game of the season to the Alaska Aces.

Washington had his best game in a San Miguel jersey, putting in a double-double performance with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

San Miguel 89 – Hontiveros 17, Washington 15, Tugade 15, Pennisi 15, Racela 11, Custodio 5, Pingris 4, Pena 3, Gonzales 2, Seigle 2, Villanueva 0, Cortez 0.

Rain or Shine 82 – Wainwright 19, Reyes 12, Salangsang 12, Norwood 7, Mercado 7, Tang 7, Laure 7, Arana 5, Dulay 2, Andaya 2, Isip 2, Ibanes 0.

Quarterscores: 18-20, 44-34, 65-51, 89-82. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

KETSON

From Page 28

once I get more training under my belt. I only trained for three months this year. But next year I will break Eli's record of 16:40 because I will be training much harder."

Mieko Carey, meanwhile, took part in her first ever SIS Fun Run after skipping the event the past few years because it coincided with her stints in the XTERRA World Championship in Maui.

She debuted in spectacular fashion, shattering Mamiko Berger's record of 21:51 for the women's division after crossing the finish line at Banzai Cliff in 21:23.

Checking in after Carey in the women's division, meanwhile, were Rebecca Read (21:55) and Monica Yamaguchi (24:09).

Carey said she was happy with her time of 21:23 even though at the time she didn't know yet that it was a new record.

She said that the SIS Fun Run was an easy run for her. "It was a very good flat course, ideal for kids."

SIS Fun Run coordinator Betty Johnson said a total of 138 individuals took part in the event that started from Banzai Cliff and had participants run toward Cowtown Raceway Park and back to the finish line at Banzai Cliff.

She also thanked the following sponsors for their in-kind donations for the SIS Fun Run: AIC Marianas, Big Dipper, Deloitte, Delta Management, DFS Galleria, Hawaiian Rock Products, Himawari, Marianas Medical Center, Micronesian Marine, Pacific Islands Club (PIC), PTI, Saipan Ice, Shell, The Financial Group, The Water Company, Tropical Blend Spa, and Claybodies Art Studio.

Result of the children's race of the SIS Fun Run will be published in the following days.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN OPEN SCORES

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Scores Friday from the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, a $4.1 million (3 million) U.S. PGA Tour event on 7,243-yard, par-72 TPC Summerlin:

SECOND ROUND

Matt Kuchar	63-63	126
Marc Turnesa	62-64	126
Zach Johnson	62-65	127
John Mallinger	64-64	128
Ken Duke	63-66	129
Pat Perez	66-63	129
Chez Reavie	64-66	130
Ryan Moore	66-64	130
Chris Stroud	65-65	130
Rich Beem	66-65	131
Nick Watney	63-68	131
Dean Wilson	69-63	132
Fred Couples	68-64	132
Chad Campbell	65-67	132
Brad Adamonis	67-65	132
Michael Allen	63-69	132
Brian Davis	65-68	133
Nicholas Thompson	68-65	133
Chris DiMarco	69-64	133
Ryuji Imada	67-66	133
Frank Lickliter II	65-69	134
Hunter Mahan	65-69	134
Woody Austin	67-67	134
Daniel Chopra	69-65	134
Jesper Parnevik	69-65	134
John Riegger	66-68	134
John Huston	71-63	134
Scott Sterling	69-65	134
Mark Hensby	69-65	134
Robert Garrigus	65-69	134
Bob Estes	66-68	134
Kevin Na	64-70	134
George McNeill	67-67	134
Charles Howell III	67-67	134
Charley Hoffman	67-67	134
Charlie Wi	69-66	135
Davis Love III	68-67	135
Martin Laird	67-68	135
Todd Demsey	67-68	135
Peter Lonard	66-69	135
Brett Quigley	68-67	135
Steve Marino	71-64	135
Joe Durant	65-70	135
Mark Wilson	70-65	135
Mathew Goggin	68-67	135
James Driscoll	71-65	136
Bill Haas	68-68	136
Kevin Sutherland	69-67	136
John Merrick	67-69	136
Parker McLachlin	67-69	136
Tom Pernice, Jr.	68-68	136
Richard Johnson	69-67	136
Bo Van Pelt	67-69	136
Kenneth Ferrie	66-70	136
Chad Collins	66-70	136
Kevin Streelman	68-69	137
Eric Axley	68-69	137
David Duval	69-68	137
Jason Day	70-67	137
Matt Jones	66-71	137
Charles Warren	65-72	137
Tim Wilkinson	72-65	137
Mike Weir	69-68	137
Tim Herron	72-65	137
Will MacKenzie	65-72	137
Patrick Sheehan	68-69	137
Jason Gore	68-70	138
Jason Allred	69-69	138
Steve Lowery	68-70	138
Ben Crane	69-69	138
Vaughn Taylor	69-69	138
Jeff Overton	69-69	138
Mike Ruiz	67-71	138
Kent Jones	69-69	138
Omar Uresti	68-70	138
Jeff Maggert	70-68	138
Steve Flesch	70-68	138
Joe Ogilvie	66-72	138
Tom Scherrer	69-69	138
Mathias Gronberg	69-69	138
Nick Flanagan	64-74	138
Y.E. Yang	67-71	138
Casey Bourque	70-68	138

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Standings

Acme Roofing	5	0
Enyphace	5	1
Kimoichi	4	2
Off Twice	4	2
Karakuchi	3	2
Thai One On	3	2
MHS Peers	3	2
MHS Oakies	2	4
Champ-On	1	4
MHS Serves Up!	0	5
MHS 67 Doh-Fins	0	6

Cowboys still aren't saying whether Romo will play

Tony Romo was basically a spectator in the middle of the field when the Dallas Cowboys started practice Friday. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Red Sox bask in glow of amazing comeback

The impact of Boston's amazing comeback against Tampa Bay in Game 5 of the AL title series was still hard to comprehend for several Red Sox players. **25**

Ketson, Meiko top SIS Fun Run

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A former record-holder and a first-timer won yesterday's 8th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run held in Marpi.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel was the first to cross the finish line overall and topped the men's division after clocking in at 19.16.

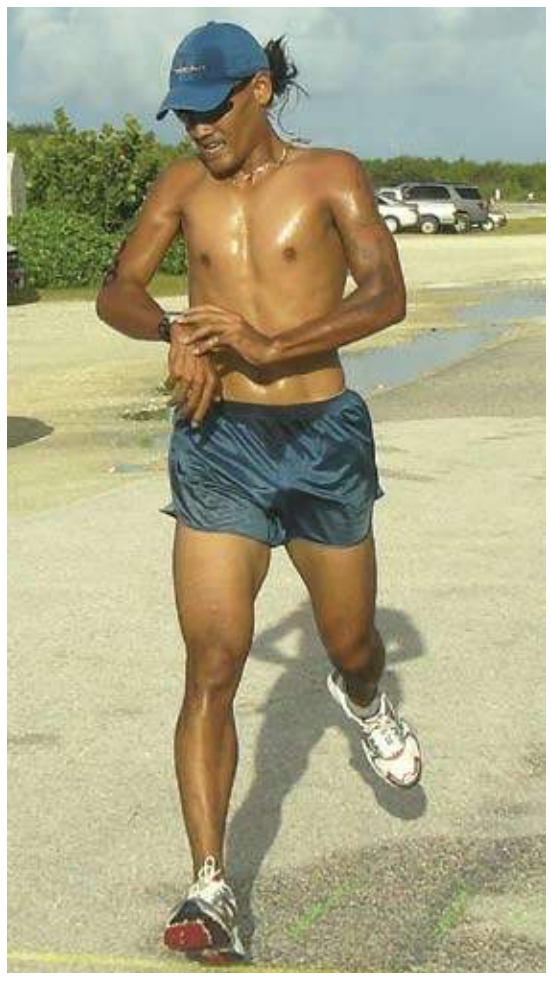
Coming in second and third to Kabiriel in the men's category were Northern Marianas Athletics up-and-coming runners Champ Untalan (19:57) and Matthew Mancao (20:34).

Before Eli Torgeson set the course record last year with a blistering run of 16:40, Kabiriel was the SIS Fun Run's record holder with a time of 18:28.

While he didn't break it this year, the man who calls himself Roadrunner Bunny vowed to take back the record next year after a more thorough training regimen.

"I'm going to break Eli's record

See KETSON on Page 27



MARK RABAGO

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, left, and Mieko Carey topped the men's and women's categories of the 8th Annual Saipan International School 5K Fun Run held yesterday in Marpi.

Champ-on enters win column

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Champ-on ended its four-game losing skid in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League after sweeping MHS Serves Up! Thursday night at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

Champ-on needed an extra point to pull off a 22-20 victory in the first set and sealed its first win in the tournament with a 21-16 triumph in the second set. Champ-on completed a sweep with a similar 21-16 victory in the third set.

The win moved Champ-on two notches up in the team standings with its 1-4 record.

MHS Servers Up! dropped to second to the last in the 11-team field with its disappointing 0-5 record.

Two other teams recorded sweeps to remain in the upper half of the team standings.

Enyonphace defeated Karakuchi to improve to a 5-1 record and keep the No. 2 spot. Acme Roofing is leading the league with a perfect 5-0 slate.

Enyonphace won by five points in the first set, 21-16, and played extended minutes in the second before eking out a 25-23 win. Karakuchi, which played catch up most of the time, lost steam in the third set, allowing Enyophace a sweep via an easy 21-8 win.

Karakuchi absorbed its second straight defeat dropping the team to fifth place.

Karakuchi has a 3-2 record, tying two other teams, but it earned 283 points in five games to finish ahead of Thai One On (278) and the MHS Peers (276).

Kimoichi moved up from sixth to third place after notching its fourth victory in a row.

Kimoichi extended its winning run after outclassing the MHS Doh-Fins, 21-14, 21-6, 21-6.

Off Twice won the first game Thursday night after claiming two of their three-set match against the MHS Oakies.

Off Twice prevailed in the first set, 21-13, but failed to seal the win in the second set with the MHS Oakies recovering, 21-19. Off Twice regained its bearings and preserved the victory with a 21-16 triumph in the deciding third set.

Kimoichi and Off Twice have similar 4-2 records, but the former took the No. 3 spot in the team standings having scored 329 points in six games. Off Twice had 317 points.

Games in this year's four-person beach volleyball league will continue on Tuesday with Champ-on hoping for back-to-back wins when it takes on the MHS Peers in the first game at 5:30pm.

The second match at 6:30pm will have Kimoichi challenging the MHS Oakies with the former aiming for its fifth straight victory.

MHS Serves Up! will try to enter the win column when it collides with Thai One On in the third game at 7:30pm.

Acme Roofing will go for win No. 6 in as many games when it faces Off Twice in the last match of the night at 8:30pm.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Champ-on's Edwin Paasin returns the ball while teammate Gin Gridley looks on during their game against Kimoichi in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League at the Pacific Islands Club sand court. Champ-on lost the match, but recovered after sweeping MHS Serves Up! Thursday night.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Hey hey, Tampa Bay

Author's note: This column was written with Tampa Bay up 3-1 over Boston in the ALCS and assumes they will win it. If Boston comes back to win the series, next week's column will be about how Boston is the greatest comeback team of all time and what a lousy predictor I am.

Worst to first, Baybee.

All the Tampa Bay Rays had to do: 1. Destroy a dynasty and 2. Conquer a nation.

Playing in the same division as the New York Yankees with 13 straight playoff appearances and Boston with Red Sox Nation still celebrating their second championship in the past four years, no one picked TB, not even their fans like me.

The only comparison that I can think of in baseball history is the 1969 New York Mets, who had won 73 games the previous year, finishing next to last place while TB won just 66 games last season and finished last nine of their first 10 seasons. But the Amazin' Mets won the World Series so it's premature to make that final judgment now. Let's wait for the dance to end.

Abysmally, the Devil Rays were primed to rival the turn of the century Cleveland Spiders as the worst major league franchise of all time.

Who would have thought the Rays would win the pennant except perhaps some jawboning Busch-drinking yahoos sitting on a Florida porch or drunks at a Las Vegas sports book.

TB made Boston look old and slow.

Actually, the Red Sox made themselves look old and slow by bringing out Tim "Wake Me Up When It's Over" Wakefield, at 42 older and slower than anyone the Rays had. He was throwing lollipops in Game 4 which allowed the Rays, when they weren't hitting home runs, to steal whenever they wanted.

No team stole more bases in 2008 than the Bay Boys who also hit more home runs than the Red Sox. Power and speed from a group of players all coming into their prime at the same time under the guidance of third year manager Joe Maddon.

Don't you love it when a plan comes together?

And the 25-man roster costs less than two A-Rods.

This is a team built on the cheap.

All of those pitiful seasons allowed them to get the top talent like B.J. Upton and Evan Longoria who haven't had time to get new fat contracts.

But they let Josh Hamilton (.320/32/130) get away. Oh well, you can't win them all. But in baseball, you don't have to win every time, just more than you lose.

The Rays couldn't even win fans until these playoffs. The reason for the sorry attendance year after year is simple actually. Having lived in that area and knowing the people there, I understand that people in Tampa don't particularly care for St. Pete and don't want to drive all the way over there. If the stadium was in Tampa, more people would attend.

Most of baseball nation was looking forward to a Dodgers/Red Sox World Series. Fox Sports certainly was. The Phillies and Rays threw them a curve ball.

Instead of Manny Ramirez, Joe Torre, and David Ortiz, it's Shane Victorino, Charlie Manuel, and Carlos Pena.

Hey hey.